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The Full Monty is back!

Will the old boys strip off?

INSIDE TIMES2

It's a buyer's market

Where to get property deals

Bricks&Mortar

Battle over Johnson messages

● Government going to court after defying Covid inquiry ● Former PM did not provide texts from old phone

Henry Zeffman
Associate Political Editor
George Grylls Political Correspondent

The Covid inquiry is being taken to court by the government over its demand to see thousands of unredacted messages sent by Boris Johnson, ministers and officials in the pandemic.

After the inquiry's deadline to hand over WhatsApp chats and notebooks passed yesterday afternoon, the Cabinet Office said that rather than complying it was seeking a judicial review.

Government lawyers said that the court would have to settle "important issues of principle" about "the proper conduct of government".

They said that the view of Baroness Hallett, the retired appeal court judge who is chairing the inquiry, that it was for the inquiry alone to determine what material was potentially relevant "represents an unwarranted intrusion into other aspects of the work of government". They said it would also infringe "legitimate expectations of privacy" for ministers and officials.

Johnson publicly urged Rishi Sunak this week to pass his unredacted messages and notebooks to the inquiry. However, the legal documents published yesterday revealed that the messages provided by Johnson only began in May 2021 – deep into the pandemic, after the three national lockdowns and when most restrictions had eased. Johnson began using a new phone that month after it emerged that his mobile number had been available online for the previous 15 years.

The government said that Johnson still "has possession" of his old phone but that his representatives had not replied to a request for it to be passed on so that security experts could attempt to extract relevant messages.

Johnson's spokesman said that the phone had been switched off since April 2021 on "advice by security officials", but that the former prime minister "has absolutely no objection whatsoever to providing content on the phone to the inquiry" if it was possible to do so "without compromising security."

In a letter to Hallett last night, Johnson said that he was willing to share "the contents of my own WhatsApps and notebooks" unredacted with the inquiry directly, without the involvement of the Cabinet Office. The court battle, which government sources hope will begin within weeks rather than months, represents an extraordinary twist for the inquiry, which was announced by Johnson in May 2021. The first public hearings are due to begin in less than a fortnight, with evidence sessions expected to continue until 2026.

Even as it began the judicial review proceedings, the government sought to emphasise its determination to co-operate with the inquiry. It said it was taking legal action "with regret and

Continued on page 2

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; ANDREW HARNIK/AP







President Biden was helped back to his feet after falling over at an air force graduation ceremony in Colorado. He appeared to blame a sandbag for his stumble

Slippy Joe: Biden falls at ceremony

David Charter Washington

President Biden tripped and fell to the floor as he finished handing out diplomas at an air force graduation ceremony, renewing concerns about his physical condition.

Biden, 80, turned to leave the stage in Colorado Springs but seemed to catch his footing and tumbled, prompting several officials to run to his aid. As he was helped up he pointed to the stage floor behind him; witnesses said he appeared to be indicating that a sandbag had tripped him up.

Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary, said afterwards that the president was feeling "totally fine".

Biden is already the oldest serving US president in history. If he wins a second term and serves it in full he will leave office aged 86.

His latest medical check-up was in February, after which he was declared "fit for duty" despite a "stiff" gait. In 2021 he stumbled three times while boarding Air Force One for a flight to Atlanta, recovering to salute at the top.

It could be a Kennedy that beats Biden, Gerard Baker, page 25

Crackdown on Westminster sex pests amid fresh scandal

Geraldine Scott Political Reporter

MPs and peers accused of violent or sexual offences face being banned from Westminster under new rules to be approved this month.

MPs will vote on proposals to bar colleagues from entering the parliamentary estate or going on taxpayer-funded trips if they are being investigated by police over serious wrongdoing. Westminster staff want MPs to go further, and for bans to be considered as soon as a parliamentary inquiry is launched to remove any risk to the workforce.

The call came as the Commons faced its latest sleaze scandal, with Labour removing the whip from Geraint Davies, the MP for Swansea West.

In allegations first reported by the Politico website, it was claimed that he had invited a 19-year-old party activist to his hotel room and suggested a 22-year-old Labour staff member go back to his flat. Among a string of accusations, some of which date from 1997, he was also reported to have "boasted" of bringing sex workers on to the estate. Davies, 63, denies the claims.

Under the new system, MPs and peers accused of a criminal offence would be subject to a risk assessment carried out by a panel of officials. They would then report to a separate panel of senior politicians, thought to be the deputy speakers of each chamber, who would decide whether the parliamentarian should be barred.

Those under a ban would have their security pass disabled, but could participate virtually — submitting written questions, for example. They would also be barred from taxpayer-funded travel, such as trips for committee work.

Jenny Symmons, chairwoman of the GMB union branch that represents MPs' and peers' staff, claimed the proposals did not go far enough. She said that under the new rules Davies would be able to "carry on attending parliament" because there was no official police or parliamentary investigation against him.

The new process was originally

Continued on page 2

VISIT…

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Today's highlights



8.15am The general secretary of the RMT, **Mick Lynch**
10.15am Patrick Maguire chats to the first minister of Wales, **Mark Drakeford**
1.45pm The head of the Bloody Sunday inquiry, **Lord Saville of Newdigate**, and the judge **Lord Sumption** on the government bringing legal proceedings against the Covid inquiry
8.45pm The artist **Bob and Roberta Smith**, right
9.35pm The award winning saxophonist **YolanDa Brown**

TIMES RADIO
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TODAY'S EDITION

Sanctions on Standard buyer

Kyiv has sanctioned Alexander Lebedev, the ex-KGB officer who bought the London Evening Standard. He was targeted because he has interests in Crimea. Lebedev's son Evgeny was nominated for a peerage by Boris Johnson. **Page 4**

Boat is seized over deaths

Police impounded a pleasure boat after the deaths of a girl of 12 and a boy of 17 near Bournemouth Pier. The Dorset Belle is under guard and a man "on the water" at the time of the deaths has been arrested on suspicion of manslaughter. **Page 5**

Labour's lure for graduates

Labour would cut monthly student loan repayments for graduates, its education spokesman has said in the first indication of Sir Keir Starmer's plans for university finance since dropping his pledge to scrap tuition fees. **Page 8**

65 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia #FreeEvan



Australian war crimes ruling

Australia's most decorated living soldier committed war crimes, including murder, while serving with the SAS in Afghanistan, a judge ruled. Ben Roberts-Smith murdered Afghan civilians, including a farmer he kicked off a cliff. **Pages 28-29**

Downturn for biggest deals

Activity in mergers and acquisitions in Britain is at its lowest level in seven years amid caution about the economic outlook. The value of deals involving companies in the UK has more than halved in the first five months of the year, experts said. **Page 33**

England off to smashing start

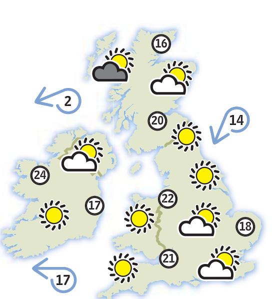
Stuart Broad hailed the "perfect start to a big summer" after England's dominant performance against Ireland on the opening day of their Ashes warm-up. The hosts reached 152 for one at the close, having bowled out the visitors for 172. **Back page**

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THE WEATHER



Any morning cloud will break revealing spells of sunshine.
Full forecast, page 56

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Biggest property price fall since the financial crisis

Tom Howard, Arthi Nachiappan

House prices fell at their fastest annual rate for nearly 14 years last month, according to Nationwide.

Prices are now 3.4 per cent below where they were last May, representing the biggest decline since the financial crisis in 2009.

The new figures from Nationwide mean that year on year house prices have fallen in each of the past four months. They come as forecasters predict that the housing market is set for a fall as interest rates rise further.

House prices in the UK peaked last August, the month before Kwasi Kwarteng set out his economic vision for the country. Since then they have fallen by 4 per cent, on average, according to Nationwide's data.

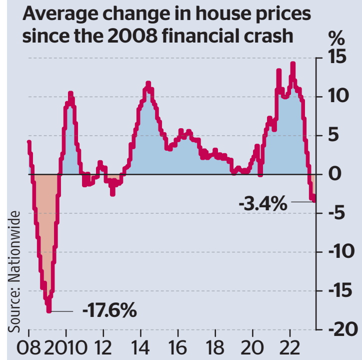
Month on month the decline was 0.1 per cent in May, putting the average price of a house in the UK at £260,736. "The renewed decline in Nationwide's measure of house prices in May suggests buyers still are struggling with affordability," Gabriella Dickens, a senior UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said.

In further signs that the market could be cooling, separate data published by the Bank of England yesterday showed that net lending, which reflects the value of new mortgages taken out relative to the amount repaid on existing mortgages, hit a record low outside the pandemic. In April net repayments of £1.4 billion were made as more money was repaid on mortgages than the amount that was taken out on new mortgages.

The number of mortgages approved for house purchases fell from 51,500 in March to 48,700 in April, while the number of approvals for remortgaging increased slightly from 32,200 to 32,500.

Going down

Average change in house prices since the 2008 financial crisis



Robert Gardner, Nationwide's chief economist, believes that headwinds facing the property market "look set to strengthen" over the coming months. He added: "While consumer price inflation did slow in April, it was a much smaller decline than most analysts had expected.

"As a result, investors' expectations for the future path of interest rates increased noticeably in late May. Furthermore, rates are also projected to remain higher for longer."

Prices have dropped in every month bar one since September, the only exception being a surprise 0.4 per cent increase in April. The start of the downturn began shortly after the mini-budget, which sent mortgage rates spiralling and sapped consumer confidence amid the political and economic uncertainty.

Estate agents and housebuilders reported a sharp and sudden drop-off in demand from would-be buyers. The latest figures come as the cost of repaying a mortgage rises amid the increase in interest rates. In spring last year the typical rate on a new five-year fixed-rate mortgage, at 75 per cent loan to value, was just over 2 per cent. It is now double that, Nationwide's data showed.

Andrew Wishart, senior UK property economist at Capital Economics, expects mortgage rates to pass 5 per cent "imminently" given the path now expected of interest rates. By early next year he predicts that mortgage rates will have increased to 5.7 per cent.

"That is the same level as last autumn, which suggests a renewed fall in house prices is likely," Wishart said. "We think that prices will eventually drop by a further 8 per cent on top of the 4 per cent decline to date."

Dickens, who thinks a further 4 per cent fall in house prices this year is likely, suggested that prospective buyers were holding off from moving in anticipation of securing a lower price further down the line. Although mortgage approvals picked up in March, at 52,000, the figure was 20 per cent below pre-pandemic levels and half that seen at the height of the pandemic.

Gardner expects activity in the housing market to "remain subdued in the near term", although he still does not foresee the market crashing given strong employment levels and household balance sheets.

The combination of lower house prices and healthy income growth, he said, "should help to improve housing affordability over time, especially if mortgage rates moderate once interest rates peak".

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Crackdown on sex pests

proposed to kick in when an MP or peer was charged by police. However, there are discussions about whether this could be changed to the point of arrest. At present there are voluntary arrangements with MPs being investigated for wrongdoing to stay away from Westminster — but the Commons authorities have previously noted that these were not always honoured.

Whether MPs will back the new measures had been uncertain because of the constitutional ramifications of preventing an MP from representing their constituents in parliament. However, senior sources now expect the plan to be approved.

One female Tory MP said she would vote for the measures and suggested that her colleagues would do the same because they did not want to be seen as blocking protections for staff.

Two other female MPs said they would back the ban at the point of a formal police or parliamentary investigation, with one likening it to the process seen in the private sector.

One northern MP, however, was concerned that the proposals would "create open season for vexatious claims from staff and the public", saying: "The incentive to then get somebody barred … before they had been found guilty of something would be too high."

Another said they feared that a ban would lead to a presumption of guilt.

Symmons said those working in Westminster needed to be protected from "predatory behaviour", adding: "There continues to be an imbalance of power, and then a culture of abuse of that, and then impunity and avoidance of any consequences.

"We need to take an absolute abundance-of-caution approach and consider people for precautionary exclusions from the point of where an investigation begins, whether that's with the police or the ICGS [the parliamentary watchdog, the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme]."

She gave the example of the former Labour MP Chris Matheson, who was under investigation for 17 months before complaints of "serious sexual misconduct" were upheld.

Symmons said: "I honestly think that constituents deserve to have people representing them who are of strong moral character and the consequences of being a perpetrator of abuse maybe does involve not being able to speak on behalf of your constituents and maybe you shouldn't be in the job at all."

Mike Clancy, general secretary of the Prospect union which also represents parliamentary staff, said they should have the same protection as in any workplace and "for too long this issue has been dismissed as too difficult to handle". He said the plan brought forward this month "must introduce a robust system that protects staff working at the heart of democracy".

MPs are due to debate the plan on June 12. A special commission set up by Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Commons speaker, is due to report before the summer on whether staff should no longer be employed directly by MPs after concerns that this made them vulnerable.

A parliamentary spokesman said: "Bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct have absolutely no place in parliament — and we strive to ensure that we have a workplace where everyone is treated with the respect and dignity they deserve."

Labour MP loses whip, page 9
It's high time for serious reform, leading article, page 27

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Battle over Johnson messages

with an assurance that we will continue to co-operate fully with the inquiry before, during and after the … issue in question is determined by the courts, specifically whether the inquiry has the power to compel production of documents and messages which are unambiguously irrelevant to the inquiry's work, including personal communications and matters unconnected to the government's handling of Covid".

The letter to the inquiry also suggested that officials were still eager to seek "possible solutions which are proportionate, pragmatic, and consistent" before the court hearings begin. Angela Rayner, the Labour Party deputy leader, accused the government of "smoke and mirror tactics" that would "only undermine" the inquiry.

She said that the prime minister was "hopelessly distracted" from the cost of living crisis, adding: "Instead of digging himself further into a hole by pursuing doomed legal battles to conceal the truth, [Sunak] must comply with the . . . requests for evidence in full."

Speaking at the European Political Community summit in Moldova shortly before the legal action was confirmed, Sunak said the government was "confident in our position".

He added: "It's really important that we learn the lessons of Covid so that we can be better prepared in the future. We're doing that in the spirit of rigour but also transparency and candour. We've co-operated … thoroughly with the inquiry to date, handing over tens of thousands of documents, and we will continue to comply, of course, with the law [and] the inquiry."

Johnson handed over 25 notebooks but not his old phone, page 6

TOM MADDICK/SWNS



Sixty-three homes on Hopewell Street have been repainted as part of efforts to make Gloucester more vibrant. Community wellbeing has been boosted and property prices are up 30 per cent in some areas

The rainbow streets paved with gold

Moods (and houses' valuations) were lifted by a project to brighten up a city, reports **George Willoughby**

At first glance these colourful homes would not look out of place in the Instagram-worthy streets of Tobermory or Notting Hill.

But rather than belonging to a buzzing seaside town or bustling London suburb, these green, orange, blue and yellow properties are nearly 30 miles inland, tucked away in the cathedral city of Gloucester.

Hopewell Street has been transformed into a vibrant row of houses thanks to the work of Tash Frootko, an artist and property developer. A resident of the city, Frootko has repainted 63 homes as part of efforts to inject a new lease of life into the area. It is part of a wider scheme she started in 2018 to turn Gloucester into the "rainbow city". Since then she has painted 134 houses, using more than 1,300 litres of paint.

She said: "I started these transformations as there was such a negative morale about the appearance of the city. The backdrop has been here all the time, it just needed a creative mind and a huge injection of colour to decorate it."

Frootko, 44, has been giving makeovers to Gloucester's streets and squares for the past five years — this project is the fifth such transformation. She has released a documentary about her work, *Painting the Rainbow City*.

"My projects get more exciting every time and I seem to have a template and formula that works. The response from the community, schools and visitors to the street has been overwhelmingly positive," she said.

Locals say the project in Barton and Tredworth, paid for with council money from levelling-up funding, has created a better atmosphere and that property prices have risen by 30 per cent. The area had previously been afflicted by fly-tipping, Frootko said.

Frootko, who has lived in Gloucester for the past two decades, said it "shows what an individual with a vision can achieve".

People living on the street said the change was remarkable. Rob Wilks, a resident for 63 years, said: "It was like Tash appeared from nowhere and turned our street into a work of art.

"The tireless work she does behind the scenes to fix the street's issues



Tash Frootko has painted 134 houses since launching her project in 2018

before adding her signature colours is admirable. She has brought love, fun, colour and laughter to the street, and we cannot thank her enough."

Brigitte Wurfel-Mathurin, a resident who lives on a neighbouring street, said: "There is no end to this lady's ability to improve the look of our city. Her remarkable vision and drive is phenomenal and she takes the community on the adventure with her. Having Tash come to our street and do what she has done has been life-changing and makes me feel so proud to say that I live [here]. She has created a kaleidoscopic masterpiece here, and another landmark for Gloucester."

Frootko's scheme began after buying a house in the city in 2018. She wanted to repaint it to brighten up the street and increase her rental income. She said she wanted to reinvigorate local areas with creativity.

One estate agent told The Times last year that her previous work meant houses on the street were selling quicker. Josh Richards, of Andrews Property Group, said: "A lot of the houses were grey and dull before. It has brought a bit of light to the city and got a lot of the community together, so it has had a positive impact."

Now the artist is set on transforming entire parts of the city into huge outdoor art galleries. She has previously painted a mural on an end-of-terrace house in the city centre.

Frootko told the BBC: "I really hope that my kaleidoscopic streets inspire others to pick up a paint brush and reveal the true potential of how their street can look — and in turn increase the value of their properties."

A quirky gesture that should inspire others, leading article, page 27
Dip and dazzle, Bricks & Mortar, pages 8-9

Kaleidoscopic Britain

Notting Hill, west London Blue, purple, pink and almost every other colour can be seen in Lancaster Road. For good reason it was once described as the "most instagrammable street".

Cliftonwood, Bristol Among the mainly Victorian terrace houses there is a flurry of colourful homes on show overlooking Bristol Harbourside.

Victoria Street, Edinburgh The curved street is said to have inspired JK Rowling to create Diagon Alley in the Harry Potter series.

Tobermory, Isle of Mull The port has a magical set of buildings that are home to sweet shops and a chocolate factory. It was featured prominently on the children's television show *Balamory*. The story goes that the owner of one hotel painted its front yellow and the neighbours followed suit.

Portree Harbour, Isle of Skye It has a row of waterside houses in pastel shades and is one of the most famous sights for visitors.

Worth the wait … this year's strawberries sweeter and juicier

Seren Hughes

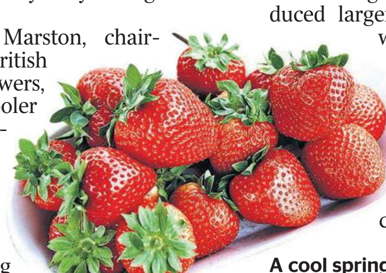
The wait has been a month longer than last year but now that British strawberries are finally making their way on to supermarket shelves, they will be bigger and sweeter than last year's crop.

While Britons have been despairing at a dull spring this year, the cooler weather has allowed the fruit to become sweeter and juicier, according to British Berry Growers, an industry body that represents 95 per cent of the UK's soft fruit growers. Domestic strawberry production is expected to hit its peak around the third and fourth weeks of June, just in time for Royal Ascot, the Henley Royal Regatta and Wimbledon.

Nicholas Marston, chairman of British Berry Growers, said the cooler spring weather had resulted in a slower ripening period, with fruit arriving on shop shelves about a month later than last year's first harvests.

The longer growing time has produced larger berries than last year, while the recent run of sunny days and cooler nights has boosted their sugar content, making them sweeter and juicier.

Cooler nights give strawberry plants a chance to rest, and then put the energy gained during the day into producing high natural sugars at night.



A cool spring has improved the fruits' sugar content ready for Wimbledon

British strawberries are grown in glasshouses from March until mid-May, before being moved to polytunnels between May and September. Production returns to glasshouses in October.

Fresh strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries make up the biggest market share of all fruit sold in the UK, at 28 per cent, boosting the value of the UK berry industry to an all-time high of £1.7 billion.

Marston said: "Our strawberry crop has arrived a little later this year but the good news is that they are well worth the wait.

"Advanced growing techniques now mean we produce fresh British strawberries from May right through to October. That's great news for UK shoppers and it means big business for the UK economy too."

Marston recommended storing berries in the fridge rather than keeping them out in the kitchen. The fruit should be taken out a few hours before you want to eat them "to release their wonderful national flavours and sugars", he added.

Britain strikes deal to return migrants passing through Georgia

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor
Bruno Waterfield Bulboaca

A new migrant deal with Georgia will allow Britain to return all illegal arrivals who travelled through the country, regardless of whether they are Georgian.

Ministers hope it will provide a new model of migrant returns arrangements that will be agreed with other countries. Most current deals that Britain has agreed with countries such as Albania and Serbia only allow for deportations of their own citizens.

However, the terms of the agreement struck with Georgia, which took effect yesterday, will allow for the transfer of third-country nationals if there is evidence that they have transited through the Caucasus country on their way to the UK. While this will not apply to a significant number of people, the UK hopes that the model can be agreed with other countries. Since 2018, 2,046 Georgians have entered the UK through irregular means, including 340 via small boats across the Channel.

Rishi Sunak said that his goal to "stop the boats" could only be achieved with the co-operation of other countries as he won tentative backing to make tackling illegal migration a top priority for Europe.

The prime minister met the leaders of 46 other European countries at the second summit of the European Political Community, which was set up by President Macron last year to boost co-operation on challenges among a wider range of nations than EU members.

Sunak said that tackling the growing problem of illegal migration, which increased by 46 per cent in Europe last year, "can only really be solved when we work together with other countries".

He said that he had held "productive discussions" with countries to boost co-operation on targeting people smuggling gangs. He received backing from Mark Rutte, the Dutch prime minister, who said after meeting Sunak yesterday: "I completely agree with him that this has to be discussed here. We didn't discuss it in depth, but I know that he has had various meetings here on that issue."

The leaders of a group of countries known informally as the "fighter jet coalition" agreed to start training Ukrainian pilots to fly F-16 fighter jets.

Sunak met Rutte and their Polish, Danish, Swedish and Belgian counterparts to formalise the coalition under the name "Ukraine's Sky Shield". Under yesterday's agreement, the F-16s could be operational in Ukraine within six months but are mainly seen as a deterrent to Russian aggression if a successful peace agreement can be struck.

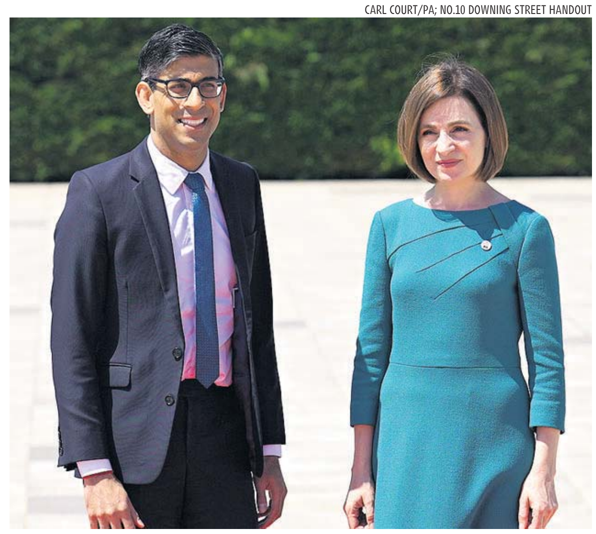
At the summit, Sunak said that Ukraine's "rightful place" was in Nato in the clearest endorsement of the prime minister's support for the country joining the alliance, which meets for a key meeting of its members' leaders in Vilnius, Lithuania, next month.

Kyiv has long called for Ukraine to be admitted to Nato, but allies are divided about when and how any accession might happen while it is at war.

Sunak said he was "proud" of the UK's record in supporting Ukraine, adding: "We want to make sure we put in place security arrangements for Ukraine for the long term, so we send a very strong signal to Vladimir Putin that we are not going anywhere, we are here to stay and we will continue backing Ukraine — not just now, but for years into the future."

CARL COURT/PA; NO.10 DOWNING STREET HANDOUT







Rishi Sunak met President Zelensky of Ukraine and President Sandu of Moldova, top right, along with other leaders at the second summit of the European Political Community, set up last year by President Macron

Ukraine sanctions ex-KGB officer who bought the Evening Standard

Fiona Hamilton Security Editor
George Greenwood
Investigations Reporter

Ukraine has imposed sanctions on Alexander Lebedev, the former KGB intelligence officer who bought the Evening Standard, it has emerged.

Ukraine's national security and defence council imposed the sanctions on Lebedev, whose son, Evgeny, has a seat in the House of Lords, in October.

Its sanctions statement, first reported by Tortoise Media, cited the fact that Lebedev "invests in the tourism business" in Crimea, which was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014 and where Lebedev owns a hotel. The statement said he "supports and implements actions and policies that undermine the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine".

Lebedev had already been sanctioned by Canada but Britain has yet to follow suit. After Canada's move last year, Boris Johnson faced calls from Labour to consider sanctions.

The former prime minister has had close links to the Lebedev family. He attended Alexander Lebedev's 60th birthday party in 2019. Last year The Sunday Times reported that Johnson granted a peerage to Evgeny Lebedev despite concerns raised by intelligence officials. It was reported that the concerns were withdrawn by security services after Johnson intervened.

Alexander Lebedev, a Russian citizen and media mogul, bought the Standard and Independent in 2009. The Standard is now owned by Lebedev Holdings, which is controlled by his son. Evgeny Lebedev part-owns the Independent.

Tortoise reported that Oleksiy Danilov, secretary of Ukraine's national security and defence council, signed off on the sanctions decision. It was given effect by a decree from President Zelensky. The decree states the list should be made available to the UK and EU member states, so it should have been shared with the British government.

It means that Lebedev Sr, who owns the hotel and other tourism assets in Crimea, is blocked from moving funds out of Ukraine and from making financial transactions within the country.



The Lebedevs became UK newspaper owners

Evgeny Lebedev has said he has no links to President Putin's regime. In 2020, he accused critics of his peerage of "casual racism". He said he was honoured for raising millions for charities and for his role in rescuing the Standard and Independent. Last year he appealed to Putin to stop Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

When Lebedev Sr bought the Evening Standard for £1, he said he had read the newspaper when stationed as a KGB officer in London. The deal was supervised by his son, who was born in Moscow but educated in England.

Last May, Canada named Lebedev Sr on a list of 14 people who had "directly enabled Putin's senseless war in Ukraine and bear responsibility for the pain and suffering".

At the time Angela Rayner, Labour's deputy leader, said there was an "extremely strong case" for the UK issuing sanctions. She accused Johnson of having "form when it comes to protecting the Lebedevs", accusing him of failing to release critical information about the award of Evgeny Lebedev's peerage.

The Cabinet Office has said that Evgeny Lebedev is a "man of good standing", that no complaint has been made about his conduct and that he has been a critic of Putin. Attempts to contact Alexander Lebedev were unsuccessful.

Ukraine's cyberwarriors, page 28

EU workers become a minority

Matt Dathan

Non-EU workers have overtaken those from the European Union in the UK for the first time since 2010, according to official government data.

There were 2.55 million non-EU workers in the UK by December, 220,000 more than EU-born employees, HM Revenue & Customs figures reveal.

Indians were the largest nationality, holding about a third of all work visas granted to foreign workers in the year to March, followed by Americans, Filipinos, Nigerians and Zimbabweans.

The HMRC data exposes the extent to which Britain's foreign labour workforce has changed since the Brexit vote in 2016, when EU workers outnumbered their non-EU counterparts by more than half a million.

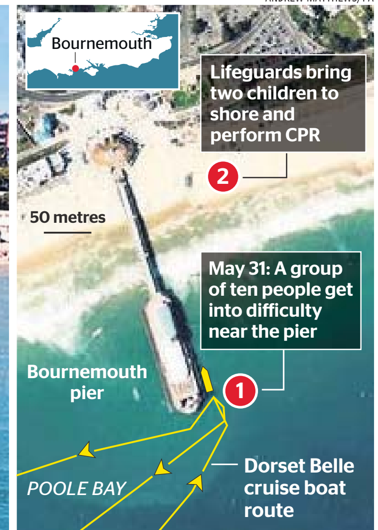
Non-EU migrants in the UK also accounted for a significantly higher proportion of the 200,362 applications for British citizenship in the year to March with 152,755 recorded, triple the 47,607 received from EU nationals.

Boat held by police after sea deaths

Ali Mitib

ANDREW MATTHEWS/PA





A pleasure boat that was sailing near Bournemouth Pier has been impounded by police after the deaths of two young people.

On Wednesday afternoon a 12-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy, who were not known to each other, were pulled from the sea with "critical injuries", before being rushed to hospital where they were pronounced dead.

A further eight people were treated by paramedics after the incident. A man in his forties, who was "on the water" at the time, was arrested on suspicion of manslaughter and held in custody but was last night released under investigation.

The Dorset Belle, a cruise boat which operates from Bournemouth Pier, has been placed under guard in Poole Harbour. A police source told The Times: "This vessel is under a police cordon. No one is permitted on board or to touch the vessel."

On the day of the deaths, the Dorset Belle, which can accommodate 80 passengers, made numerous circuits of Bournemouth Pier, according to the online tracker MarineTraffic, suggesting that it was in the vicinity of the incident several times.

The boat was then taken back to a quay in Poole Harbour and placed under the police cordon.

The Dorset Belle's website says that its draught is "sufficiently low, enabling her to cruise through the shallow waters around the islands of Poole Harbour but, also, cope with the occasional challenging swell conditions encountered at local piers".

At about 3pm yesterday a lone officer guarding the vessel was joined by a number of other officers in two further patrol cars. Two uniformed police officers were seen inspecting the boat at about 4.20pm.

Dorset police did not respond to a request regarding the reason behind the impounding of the pleasure boat.

Officers investigating the deaths confirmed that there was no physical contact between a vessel and any swimmers at the time of the incident.

The force also confirmed that the two children who died after getting into difficulty in the water, a 17-year-old boy from Southampton and a 12-year-old girl from Buckinghamshire, had not jumped from the pier or been hit by a jet-ski.

Rachel Farrell, an assistant chief constable at Dorset police, said: "To avoid further speculation, I am able to tell you that it's clear that [on Wednesday] a number of people already in the water got into difficulty and we are investigating the circumstances or event that caused that to happen.

"We are truly devastated that two young people have lost their lives. None of the eight people had serious injuries; they were treated at the scene. It is different people from different families which were not known to each other enjoying the water."

She added: "We would ask people not to speculate about the circumstances surrounding the incident to both protect our inquiries and out of respect for the victims and their families.

"We know the beach was very busy when the incident occurred. I am urging anyone who saw what happened or has any information that may assist to please come forward."

Vikki Slade, the leader of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole council, said the authority was working with the emergency services and would be assessing safety near the pier.

On Thursday a mourner placed flowers on the beach close to the pier as people told of their shock. Holidaymakers compared the incident to a horror film. Rob Creech, who was on the beach, said his son, 18, spotted the 12-year-old girl floating in the sea and helped to take her to the beach, where she was given CPR. He said: "My son was on the other side of the pier swimming with a few friends. All of a sudden there were a lot of people on the pier shouting and screaming that there was somebody in the water. He swam to the other side of the pier and he found a young girl floating face down in the water.

"The emergency services were just arriving at the beach, so he was shouting to them and scooped her up to swim to shore. He managed to get her out on to the beach and the emergency services took it from there."

Steve Larcombe, who works at the pier for a boat trip company, said: "There were six children involved, the police said four were walking and two cardiac arrests." He said that he was not sure if some of them had been jumping off the Victorian pier or were swimming under it at the time.

Witnesses saw lifeguards rush into the water to rescue people and saw CPR being administered on the beach. Two air ambulances and a coastguard helicopter landed on the beach. The fire service and the RNLI also attended.

Nicola Holton, who was at the seaside with her husband, said that the sea became dangerous very quickly, with several people needing help.

"One lifeguard went to rescue two swimmers struggling but he couldn't bring them in. He spotted another person struggling and a second lifeguard went out to them but there were multiple people in trouble," she said.

Conor Burns, the MP for Bournemouth West, said that the incident was a "salutary lesson" that "danger is ever present" on beaches and oceans.



The Dorset Belle pleasure cruiser, which operates from Bournemouth Pier, has been put under police guard in Poole Harbour. Rachel Farrell, left, an assistant chief constable, has urged anyone who saw what happened on Wednesday to come forward

Madeleine investigators analyse finds

Oliver Moody Berlin

The prosecutors investigating the disappearance of Madeleine McCann have cautioned that it will take them "quite a long time" to build a case against the prime suspect as they begin examining several objects found at a Portuguese reservoir.

Madeleine was three when she vanished from her parents' holiday flat at Praia da Luz on the Algarve in 2007. The German-led team now investigating the case believe she was murdered by Christian Brueckner, 46, a German serial criminal and convicted paedophile who lived near by.

Last week they asked police to search near the Arade dam, about 30 miles from Praia da Luz, after finding pictures of it at Brueckner's rural property in east Germany. The suspect had described the picnic spot as "paradise" and was allegedly involved in the local drugs scene. He has denied having anything to do with the McCann case.



Yesterday the state prosecutor's office in the German city of Braunschweig confirmed that it did not expect to bring charges in the near future. "During the course of the search a number of objects were recovered," it said. "These will be examined over the coming days and weeks. At present it is not possible to say whether some of these objects are in fact related to the Madeleine McCann case."

The prosecutors have been coy about the nature or quantity of the articles found near the banks of the reservoir during the three-day search. Forensic tests are expected to take several weeks.

Hans Christian Wolters, the lead prosecutor, told The Times: "Only once we've scrutinised the objects closely will we know if they are in fact pieces of evidence for our case or just rubbish, lost property or things people forgot."

Correio da Manha, a Portuguese newspaper, suggested the search party had found a "relevant clue".

Conspiracy theorists guilty of plot to destroy 5G masts

Duncan Gardham, Kieran Gair

Two conspiracy theorists who dubbed themselves "Bonnie and Clyde with a box of matches" have been found guilty of planning to destroy 5G phone masts and encouraging attacks on MPs.

Christine Grayson, 59, from York, and Darren Reynolds, 60, from Sheffield — both grandparents — believed 5G phone masts were designed to be used as a weapon against people who had received the Covid-19 vaccine.

When their homes were searched on August 22 last year, police found that Grayson had a crossbow and a number of bolts and Reynolds had an M16 and an AK-47 replica assault rifle.

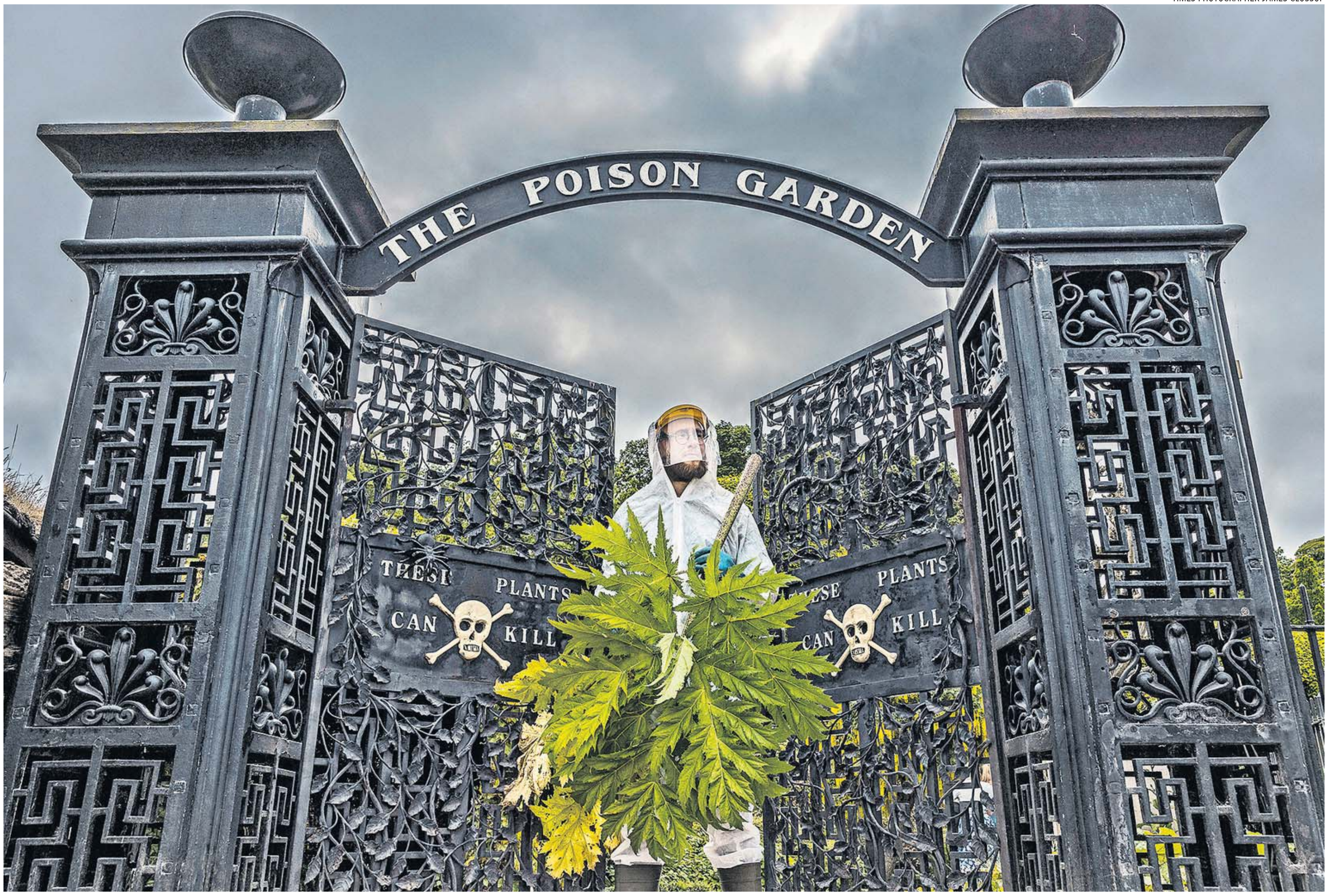
Grayson was found guilty of conspiracy to cause criminal damage by planning to destroy 5G masts between May and June last year. Reynolds was found guilty of encouraging terrorism by calling for attacks on MPs.

Reynolds, an electrician, told the court that he had become interested in conspiracy theories after the 9/11 attacks. He called for the "annihilation" of Jews and said that Boris Johnson and Michael Gove should be "eliminated".

The court heard both defendants were strongly opposed to the rollout of the 5G network and saw the masts as "enemy infrastructure". Grayson said in a Telegram exchange on August 7, 2021 that she needed a "sabotage team" to "get rid of these 5G bloody near me". The pair will be sentenced next week.

News

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JAMES GLOSSOP



Don't touch Ben Shank, senior gardener at the Alnwick Garden, Northumberland, needs a hazmat suit to prune giant hogweed, sap from which can cause blistering

Quintagram® No 1644

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Group of nine musicians (5)

_ _ _ _ _

2 Long-haired cat, goat or rabbit (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Occurring haphazardly (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 German city on the Ruhr (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Elevated to the peerage (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	B	D	D	E	E
E	E	G	H	I	L	L	M
M	M	N	N	N	N	N	N
O	O	O	O	R	R	T	U

Solutions T2 MindGames p15
Cryptic clues T2 MindGames p14

Truss's £18k Hawaii trip

Liz Truss went on an £18,000 trip with her husband to Hawaii last month, the latest register of MPs' interests shows. The former prime minister went for five days to visit the Pacific Forum, a Honolulu-based think tank, and the trip was paid for by her hosts. Truss's flights cost £15,520 and the hotels cost £2,392. The register also shows that a Tory donor paid £38,500 for Rishi Sunak to fly between the party's Scottish and Welsh conferences in April.

Johnson didn't hand over phone he used for most of the pandemic

George Grylls Political Correspondent
Henry Zeffman Associate Political Editor

Boris Johnson refused to hand over the phone he used for most of the pandemic to officials even though it may contain messages about lockdowns.

The Cabinet Office told Johnson in August 2022 that he would need to hand over "any papers or electronic records" from his time in No 10 to the Covid-19 inquiry, saying he had to keep them "safe and secure, so that they can be made available if requested".

Johnson eventually handed over 300 printed pages of WhatsApps and 25 notebooks to the Cabinet Office this week after months of correspondence with officials, according to a witness statement provided by Ellie Nicholson, a senior civil servant.

However, Johnson did not hand over the phone he used before April 2021, a period covering the three national lockdowns as well as all the gatherings investigated in the Sue Gray inquiry.

Johnson was forced to stop using the phone in April 2021 after it emerged that his number had been available online for 15 years. The former prime minister's contact details were found at the bottom of a think tank's press release from 2006 and he was told to abandon the phone for security reasons.

"On 31 May the Cabinet Office spoke to Mr Johnson's legal representatives to ask them to check with Mr Johnson that he has possession of the phone, and to confirm this to the Cabinet Office," Nicholson said. "The Cabinet Office explained that if the phone could be passed to the government it could be assessed by security experts. On the morning of June 1, the Cabinet Office emailed to chase for a response. We have not received a substantive response."



Boris Johnson fears for the security of his phone

Johnson said last night that he had not yet passed on the messages from his old device because of hacking concerns. The former prime minister insisted that he was willing in principle to give WhatsApp exchanges on the phone to the inquiry unredacted.

His spokesman said: "After a well-publicised security breach in April 2021, Mr Johnson was given advice by security officials never to turn on the old device. The effect is that historic messages are no longer available to search." He added: "Mr Johnson has absolutely no objection whatsoever to providing content on the phone to the inquiry. He has written to the Cabinet Office asking whether security and technical support can be given so that content can be retrieved without compromising security. [They] have long been aware of the status of the phone."

The Cabinet Office is now redacting Johnson's notebooks and his Whats Apps covering the period after April 2021 that have been handed over.

The decision to redact the messages has been challenged by Baroness Hallett, the chairwoman of the inquiry, who has demanded all documents in their original state. The Cabinet Office is taking legal action against the inquiry to defend the redactions.

In its legal submission, the Cabinet Office said the WhatsApps contained a large amount of "irrelevant material".

"Examples of the sort of irrelevant content in question no doubt abound — discussion of matters relating to a person's family or private life (eg a child's music lesson), or about a personal matter such as an illness, or about an entirely unrelated matter of government business," it said.

Inquiry impasse, letters, page 26

Answer wanted on why Hancock was not sacked

George Grylls

The Covid-19 inquiry will seek answers about why Boris Johnson failed to attend any Cobra meetings in the lead-up to the pandemic and why he decided not to sack Matt Hancock, according to letters released for the first time.

The Cabinet Office's decision to sue the inquiry has resulted in the publication of letters providing a first insight into the topics that will be explored by the probe. Baroness Hallett, who is chairing the inquiry, wrote to Johnson on February 3 with a list of 150 questions about the government's handling of the pandemic.

The questions, which cover everything from the decision to discharge patients from hospitals into care homes in the spring of 2020 to the creation of the Eat Out to Help Out scheme, were drawn up to help Johnson compose a witness statement.

Hallett begins her questions by asking about the way decisions were made in No 10 and what extent informal messaging systems were used and recorded.

She asks if he had any concerns about the "the performance of any cabinet minister" and "did you receive advice from the then cabinet secretary that Matt Hancock MP, should be removed from his position?"

There are also some embarrassing questions for Johnson on how seriously he took the disease during the early stage of the pandemic.

One question asks: "To what extent did you believe that coronavirus was akin to influenza? Did you hold and express the initial view in early 2020 that Covid-19 was not a serious threat and was akin to swine flu?"

One of the most damning questions comes later and reads: "Please explain what impact, if any, you consider alleged breaches of social restriction and lockdown rules by ministers, officials and advisers … had on public confidence and the maintenance of observance of those rules by the public?"

Sunak and Biden set to discuss AI

Henry Zeffman

Rishi Sunak will raise the threat posed by artificial intelligence with President Biden on his visit to the White House next week.

The prime minister has significantly hardened his position on the technology in recent weeks, and this week amplified a warning by more than 350 of the world's leading experts that it could lead to the extinction of humanity.

As he prepares to travel to Washington on Wednesday, Sunak said that the UK would "play a leadership role" in making sure AI is safe. He said: "It's something that I've already been discussing with other leaders at the G7 summit the other week, I'll be doing that again when I visit the US very soon".

The prime minister added: "AI clearly can bring massive benefits to the economy and society. You've seen that recently it was helping paralysed people to walk and discovering new antibiotics. But we need to make sure this is done in a way that is safe and secure.

"That's why I met last week with the CEOs of major AI companies to discuss what are the guardrails that we need to put in place, what's the type of regulation that should be put in place to keep us safe. People will be concerned by the reports that AI poses an existential risk like pandemics or nuclear wars. I want them to be reassured that the government is looking very carefully at this."

A joint statement this week backed by the chief executives of the leading AI companies said that mitigating the risks "should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war".

Harnessing AI, letters, page 26



The attendance of the Prince and Princess of Wales, left, at the wedding of Crown Prince Hussein and the Saudi architect Rajwa Alseif, right, was kept secret until a few hours before the ceremony. The newlyweds rode in an open-top Range Rover among a motorcade of Land Rovers through Amman

ROBIN UTRECHT/DANA PRESS/SHUTTERSTOCK; HASHEMITE COURT/AP



William and Kate show the love at Jordan royal wedding

Valentine Low

The Prince and Princess of Wales have made a surprise appearance in Jordan, joining a host of foreign royals to attend the wedding of the country's crown prince and his Saudi Arabian bride.

William and Kate, whose attendance had been kept under wraps until the day, were greeted warmly by King Abdullah of Jordan and his wife, Queen Rania, as they arrived for the wedding of their eldest son, Crown Prince Hussein, 28, and Rajwa Alseif, 29, an architect.

With all its glitz and celebration, the ceremony, which took place at the Zahran Palace, the same wedding venue chosen by both the king and his father, the late King Hussein, was more than just a wedding: it was also part strategic union, part PR campaign and part coming of age.

Jordan's biggest royal event in years comes after a difficult period for the country's monarchy, including a public rift between the king and his half-brother. Jordan, like many of its neighbours, is battling a tough economic climate, which can often heighten anti-monarchy sentiment.

Some commentators have interpreted the national celebrations as a way of shoring up public support at a time of persistent economic difficulties. It may even help resource-poor Jordan forge a strategic bond with its oil-rich neighbour, Saudi Arabia.

The bride, who has a degree in architecture and has lived and worked in Los Angeles, is the daughter of a founder of one of Saudi Arabia's largest engineering firms. Her mother is a relative of King Salman.

As the bride's aunt, Noura al-Sudairi, made her way to breakfast in the Four Seasons Hotel in Amman, she said: "We are all so excited, so happy about this union. Of course it's a beautiful thing for our families, and for the relationship between Jordan and Saudi Arabia."

A public holiday was declared so that crowds of people could gather after the wedding service to wave at the couple's motorcade of red Land Rovers, a nod to the traditional procession of horse riders clad in red coats during the reign of the country's founder, King Abdullah I. Huge screens were set up across the nation for crowds to watch the occasion unfold.

William and Kate's presence there, which reflects both the couple's relationship with Jordan and its royal family, and the country's strategic importance to Britain, was not announced in advance. Their arrival was only confirmed by Jordanian state media a few hours before the start of the palace ceremony. They attended with Princess Beatrice and her husband, Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi.

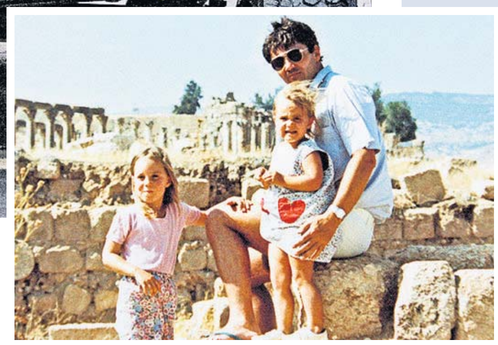
The other guests included Jill Biden, the US first lady, and several members of royal families from around the world, among them the king and queen of the Netherlands.

The ceremony took place in an open-air gazebo surrounded by landscaped gardens for a traditional Muslim wedding ceremony known as *katb al-ketab*. After the couple had made their vows and exchanged rings, thousands of Jordanians who had been watching on screens around the capital waved flags and shouted with excitement.

The wedding sets up the crown prince and his new bride to become the latest Middle Eastern power couple. His wedding, experts say, marks the next crucial rite of passage for Hussein. "It's not just a marriage, it's the presentation of the future King of Jordan," said Amer Sabaileh, a political analyst.

The crown prince, who was educated at Sandhurst and is a captain in the Jordanian army, has been in training for his ascension to the throne for years. Often accompanying his father on public visits, he holds the record for being the youngest person to chair a UN security council session, aged 20.

When he takes the throne he will be expected to carry on the king's legacy of being a key western ally that brings stability to a volatile region.



A young Kate Middleton, with father Michael and sister Pippa, in Amman. The family moved to Jordan in 1984

A soft spot for the kingdom

Behind the story

The Prince and Princess of Wales have strategic and personal reasons for attending the wedding (Valentine Low writes). Jordan is a key ally of Britain in the Middle East — over the past ten years it has hosted the King, when he was simply Prince Charles, three times — but it is also the country where Kate spent part of her early childhood.

The princess's family moved to Jordan in May 1984, when she was two and her sister, Pippa, only eight months old, after her father Michael, a British Airways manager relocated to the capital, Amman, for work.

In 2021, William and Kate took their children, George, Charlotte and Louis, on holiday to Jordan and visited her childhood home.

They used a photograph of the family at the historical site of Petra as their Christmas card that year, and released another picture of William with the children for Father's Day the following year.

William got to know the crown prince in 2018, when he became the first member of the British royal family to pay an official visit to Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. During the visit he hailed Jordan as a "beacon of hope" for the Middle East.

At a garden party to mark Queen Elizabeth's official birthday in 2018, he said in a speech that Kate was "very sorry she cannot be here with me so soon after the birth of our son, Louis, but her family remembers very fondly the almost three years she spent here as a child when her father worked for British Airways".

The visit coincided with the World Cup. When official engagements meant that he was not able to watch England's match against Panama, William was invited by the crown prince to watch a recording of the match at his home later that evening. William also knows the crown prince's mother, Queen Rania, well, because she is a judge for his Earthshot Prize.

Sex therapist loses eviction battle

A sex therapist embroiled in a bitter row with her aristocratic landlords has lost her latest legal battle after she took over their historic home with more than 50 animals.

Patricia Ramshaw, known as "Lady Pea", had hoped to convince Norfolk county court to block a possession order calling for her to leave the Old House in Ranworth, owned by the Cator family.

But a district judge threw out the case, saying the court had not received the necessary paperwork. Ramshaw insisted that the court had lost the documents.

The judge also dismissed a request from the Cators for a restraining order against Ramshaw.

The dispute began in November 2021 when Ramshaw said she rented the period home to escape domestic violence. She moved in with a menagerie of animals, including four dogs, several sheep, horses, ducks and geese — which the Cators claim breached the terms of her tenancy agreement.



"Lady Pea" Ramshaw says the house was mouldy

Ramshaw has claimed she paid the Cators a year's rent in advance but found the property without central heating, riddled with mould and "freezing cold". She said the Cator family agreed to repay her in full but that talks over the terms of her departure had broken down.

Since then the bitter spat has played out in the courts, where tribunal and district court judges have heard a series of claims, including that the mother of Ramshaw's landlord spied on her from a church tower.

Ramshaw is desperate to leave the property and the Cators want the same outcome. However, the stand-off is centred around Ramshaw's plea to be refunded more than £40,000 in rent and £13,000 in energy bills.

The Cator family has declined to comment on the case.

Duchess of York: Being loud is how I hide shyness

Valentine Low

The Duchess of York has said she is a shy, sensitive person at heart but is seen as "too loud" because she overcompensates for her retiring nature.

Sarah Ferguson made the remarks during the first episode of her podcast *Tea Talks with the Duchess and Sarah*, which she presents with Sarah Thomson, the founder of the children's newspaper First News.

The podcast promises "candid conversations as they spill the tea on the rollercoaster of life", with special guests tipped for future episodes.

In the debut episode, titled "The Maiden Voyage", the former wife of the Duke of York described herself as "deeply sensitive".

She added: "I'm very shy, which people don't know. I make up for it by overcompensating most of the time, and therefore I am probably judged for being too loud or too this or too that."

The duchess said she lived by a "rule book" that elevated loyalty, kindness, courage, manners and learning. She said co-hosting a podcast was a "brave move" because often "I'm frightened if I put my head above the parapet that I'll be shot down in flames".

News

Starmer pledges to cut monthly student loan repayments

Lara Spirit Red Box Reporter

Sir Keir Starmer has said that Labour would cut monthly student loan repayments for graduates in the first indication of his plans for university finance since dropping his pledge to scrap tuition fees, The Times can reveal.

A future Labour government "could reduce the monthly repayments for every single graduate without adding a penny to government borrowing or general taxation", Starmer's education spokeswoman said.

Writing in Red Box, Bridget Phillipson, the shadow education secretary, promised that Labour would reform the tuition fee system without increasing government spending.

She said that Labour's modelling showed scope for "a month-on-month tax cut for graduates". In reference to government reforms that are set to leave graduates going into nursing, teaching and other professional sectors facing higher monthly repayments, she wrote: "Higher loan repayments not only eat away at pay for young graduates just as they're starting out on their working lives, but also put off older learners from accessing retraining or upskilling."

It is the first signal of how Labour plans to tackle the tuition fee system since The Times revealed last month that Starmer had abandoned his pledge to scrap the party's commitment to free university tuition. The promise had featured in the party's past two general election manifestos and in Starmer's 2020 leadership campaign.

University chancellors said that the current tuition fee model of funding was "broken" and a third of institutions now faced financial deficits.

Under proposals announced last week, foreign students would be barred from bringing dependants with them to the UK unless they were studying on research programmes such as PhDs or research-intensive master's degrees.

University vice-chancellors have said that the limits placed on overseas students, which are designed to reduce net migration, would deter prospective students from coming to study in Britain.

The consultancy London Economics found earlier this year that the government's latest student-loan reforms, announced in February last year, could see the burden fall disproportionately on lower-paid earners, who face an increase in their total lifetime repayments of more than £30,000 but where the highest-earning graduates would see their lifetime repayments fall by an average of £25,000.

DAVID MCHUGH/BRIGHTON PICTURES



Stroke of genius Swimmers take to the water at Sea Lanes, the UK's first national open water swimming centre, in Brighton

Armed forces morale dips to five-year low

George Grylls Defence Correspondent
George Willoughby

Morale in the armed forces has fallen to its lowest in five years with half of servicemen and women dissatisfied with their pay and widespread frustration at substandard housing, according to Ministry of Defence figures.

Overall satisfaction with life in the military fell from 50 per cent last year to 42 per cent this year — its lowest since 2018.

Incomes have taken a real-terms cut following a below-inflation pay rise of 3.75 per cent this year. By comparison, civil servants — who, unlike soldiers, are able to go on strike — have been offered a 4.5 per cent pay rise for 2023-24.

An annual survey by the MoD shows that only three in ten members of the armed forces agree that their pay is fair. Five in ten are dissatisfied with their earnings.

Only one in five are satisfied with the speed of repairs to military accommodation, or the quality of work carried out. Overall, only 46 per cent are satisfied with the standard of housing.

The MoD said: "The wellbeing of our serving personnel is a priority, and this survey is key to helping us understand where improvement is required."

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Five women accuse Labour MP of sexual harassment

ALAMY



Geraint Davies said he "did not recognise" the allegations but was "sorry if he had inadvertently caused offence to anyone"

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor
Geraldine Scott Political Reporter

A long-serving Labour MP has been suspended from the party after being accused of sexually harassing multiple young women in Westminster.

Five women alleged that Geraint Davies, 63, subjected them to multiple instances of inappropriate behaviour since he became an MP in 1997.

The complaints relate to unwanted sexual attention, both physical and verbal, with many of the alleged incidents taking place on the parliamentary estate in bars or after late-night votes.

The revelations were published by the Politico website as part of an investigation in which more than 20 serving MPs and Labour staff described Davies's excessive drinking and a pattern of making sexual comments towards and touching younger women working in Westminster. The youngest accuser claims she was 19 at the time.

Sky News reported that Davies had "boasted" of bringing sex workers to a parliament bar. It claimed that one Labour MP and a Labour peer said it was "well known" that Davies would take women to one of the Commons' bars and "show them off".

Labour announced Davies had been suspended and had the whip withdrawn pending a formal investigation into "incredibly serious allegations of completely unacceptable behaviour".

A formal complaint was submitted against the MP yesterday afternoon but there are likely to be questions for Labour Party bosses after it was reported that Davies's behaviour was an "open secret" in the party at Westminster.

In an email to staff, the party's general secretary, David Evans, said there would be a review of the formal processes for complaints to be made.

Stephen Kinnock, the shadow immigration minister, said the party's whips were "very alive" to the issue. He told Times Radio: "The key thing is that, when something like this happens, a formal complaint must be made. People get suspended, they lose the whip, investigations take place.

"We need to make that happen as rapidly and effectively as possible and make sure that anyone who does feel that they have a complaint to make … know that they can do so in confidence, and that they will be treated with respect and confidentially and action will be taken."

Kinnock did not deny having heard the rumours about Davies. Asked on ITV News if he had been aware of reports of his behaviour, he said: "Westminster is awash with rumours and counter-rumours and I genuinely just try to not get engaged in those … what you need is to base decisions and actions on fact and proper investigations."

Davies said he did not recognise the allegations, although he was "naturally sorry" if he had inadvertently caused offence to anyone, adding that it was "important that we share an environment of mutual and equal respect for all". Politico reported that one of the allegations related to a 22-year-old former Labour Party staff member who said Davies had approached her while she was "extremely intoxicated" in a bar, bought her another drink and suggested they go back to his flat.

Davies allegedly took her phone number, saying he wanted to discuss parliamentary business, but went on to send her a series of sexually suggestive messages that alluded to masturbation on the Westminster estate. The woman initially responded to the messages in "amusement", it was reported, but later stopped because she felt uncomfortable and asked him to stop.

A Labour spokeswoman said: "We strongly encourage anyone with a complaint to come forward to the Labour Party's investigation. Any complainant will have access to an independent support service who provide confidential and independent guidance and advice from external experts throughout."

Davies was first elected as a Labour MP in 1997 but lost his Croydon Central seat in 2005. He went on to win the Swansea West seat in 2010.

Time for serious reform in Westminster, leading article, page 27

Parliamentary shame

Claims against Geraint Davies come after a series of other MP scandals.

October 2022 The Labour MP Christian Matheson quit after claims of "serious sexual misconduct".

June 2022 Chris Pincher resigned as Conservative deputy chief whip after allegedly assaulting two guests at the Carlton Club in London.

May 2022 Neil Parish, then a Tory MP, quit his seat in Tiverton & Honiton after admitting watching pornography in the Commons.

April 2022 David Warburton, MP for Somerton & Frome, had the Conservative whip withdrawn after allegations of sexual harassment.

July 2021 Mike Hill, who was Labour MP for Hartlepool, breached parliament's sexual misconduct rules in relation to his behaviour towards a woman in his office and flat.

Profile

Geraint Davies first stood for parliament in 1987 in Croydon South. It would be ten years before he was elected, overturning a Tory majority of 9,650 in Croydon Central (Geraldine Scott writes).

During his first stint in parliament he proposed a bill that led to a ban on childminders being allowed to smack children, adopted by the government.

But he lost his seat in the 2005 election to the Tory candidate Andrew Pelling by just 75 votes.

Five years later, he won in Swansea West with a slim majority, which has since increased to 8,116.

Davies has introduced 26 private members' bills, including on child protection.

He was caught up in the expenses scandal and in 2004-5 claimed more than any other MP, including more than £4,000 to renovate a central London flat 12 miles from his constituency home. He defended his expenditure by saying it showed he was "one of the most hard-working MPs in Britain".

BBC 'spurned new mother Minchin's plea'

Isobel Frodsham

The presenter Louise Minchin said she was told to "find another job" by BBC 5 Live bosses after giving birth to her first daughter.

Minchin, 54, described her experience after having Mia by caesarean section in 2002 and then having a second operation shortly afterwards when her appendix burst.

Speaking on the *Dirty Mother Pukka* podcast, Minchin said she had been feeling "overwhelmed and anxious" and then asked to reduce her hours.

She added: "I was doing an evening shift, I was [working] on something called Sport on 5. I had to be in at 2pm or 4pm and I was working until midnight. Then I got pregnant." She said that she had gone back to work three months after the second operation as she had been freelancing. "My husband didn't have a job at the time because he was setting up a company. I was the only person that was going to bring money in," she said. "I went back, it was three or four months, I may have still been breastfeeding. I was just getting through." She added that she felt it was "OK until it was not" and then one day she reached "breaking point" and said she "couldn't keep working like this".


Louise Minchin asked to reduce her hours after her daughter's birth

"I asked, 'Could you maybe take my hours down a bit? My co-presenter goes home at 10pm and I go home at midnight because I have to read the news. Or could I maybe just do one day a week less?'

"[They said] 'No, you have to do that or you have to find another job'. Actually I did leave, with the back-up of my husband. It felt brilliant. I just was like, 'You know what, this is not acceptable, and I'm not going to accept it'."

She later returned to the station and has worked on shows including *BBC Breakfast* and *The One Show*.

The BBC said: "We are sad to hear about a negative experience like this. Things have changed significantly for new parents over the last 20 years and the BBC is committed to being an inclusive organisation. We aim to support all employees during pregnancy, adoption and life as a new parent with policies including flexible working."

Boy, 15, arrested over death of 'friendly, religious' man

David Woode Crime Correspondent
Stewart Whittingham

A boy aged 15 was being questioned on suspicion of murder yesterday after a "friendly" and "religious" man died at a house in Greater Manchester.

Police were alerted to a disturbance in the Old Trafford area at 7.45pm on Wednesday. Neighbours said they had heard "bangs" and people fighting.

Officers found a 21-year-old man with serious injuries. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The victim, named locally as Salah Njama, is thought to have been brought up in Sudan and lived with his mother, brother and sister.

Greater Manchester police said a 15-year-old boy had been arrested on suspicion of murder, and a 16-year-old boy had been arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon.

Shan Kamal, 21, who said she was the victim's best friend, said: "I'm in complete shock. He was a lovely man. I have no idea why he's been killed. He wasn't into gangs or drugs. He was religious and helped me with my religious studies. He was always telling me we should try to be good people."

Saba Gul, 43, who lives nearby, said: "There was a lot of noise like people were fighting and then I heard his mother shouting: 'Help, help.' He always said hello to me and was friendly. It's a quiet street, we've had no trouble here before."

FIAT e-GRANT

FIAT

Secretary of State for Transport House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

2nd June, 2023

FIAT launches first manufacturer-funded electric car grant to help accelerate electric car adoption following end of UK Government Plug-in Car Grant

Dear Secretary of State for Transport,

The UK Government has set ambitious goals for the sale of electric cars.

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That's why today we've introduced the Fiat E-Grant - a £3,000 incentive for anyone who buys a Fiat 500e or Fiat 500e Convertible.

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Last June, the UK Government withdrew its grant - once worth up to £5,000 - for electric car buyers, and while there are many factors at play, it's no coincidence that the market share of electric vehicles has since plateaued in the UK.

In fact, some data suggests that demand for electric cars has fallen 65% year-on-year, at just the moment it needs to be accelerating.

We understand that the cost-of-living crisis has caused huge financial upheaval, but other countries all around the world have shown how powerful incentives can be in driving demand and helping people make the transition to electric cars.

We're excited by the potential of the Fiat E-Grant. A £3,000 grant on a new car is very enticing - but it could be even more so.

Join us in incentivising Britain's motorists to make the switch to electric and together we can drive towards a sustainable, zero emissions motoring future.

Yours sincerely,

Damien Dally, Managing Director, Fiat UK

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Protest results in a tricky delivery

England's cricket team were caught up in anti-oil protests as slow-marching activists blocked their coach on its journey to Lord's (David Woode writes).

Jonny Bairstow, the wicketkeeper and batsman, posted a photo on Instagram of police talking to protesters near the team's hotel in Kensington, west London.

Bairstow wrote: "If we're a bit late it's not our fault." The cricketers' one-off Test against Ireland got under way at 11am as planned.

Just Stop Oil mocked the England team on Twitter after realising that its activists had held up the cricket team's coach: "They might know a bit about a batting collapse, but the climate crisis is no one-day international — it's our biggest test."

Commuters faced fresh disruption yesterday as Just Stop Oil launched nine slow-walking marches in London. The group has protested daily since April 24, urging the government to halt all new fossil fuel projects. A motorcyclist was arrested in Bloomsbury Square, central London, after attempting to drive through campaigners and police. The Metropolitan Police said a man had been interviewed by officers and de-arrested, but was reported for a traffic offence for driving without due care and attention. Three people were arrested on Waterloo Bridge for breaches under the Public Order Act.

Activists who disrupted traffic in Battersea, southwest London, were challenged by a man who shouted: "Why should you have the right to destroy other people's lives? I'm so appalled by your behaviour. Pay your taxes like everyone else."

Superintendent Chris Green said: "Officers are getting to locations quickly [and] assessing the circumstances and levels of disruption caused before applying our legal powers to ensure everyone's safety and minimise disruption to the wider community.

"We completely understand the frustration of Londoners where Just Stop Oil slow-march protests are impacting their ability to go about their day-to-day business and causing disruption. However, people should not intervene or take actions that might cause danger to others or commit offences themselves. Please let police deal with the situation."

Scotland Yard said that protesters would be dealt with in a "speedy and robust" manner if they tried to disrupt the FA Cup final tomorrow. Ade Adelekan, a deputy assistant commissioner at the Met, said that 1,200 officers from three forces would be deployed as Manchester City face Manchester United at Wembley.

England on top, Sport

JOHNNY BAIRSTOW/INSTAGRAM; TOM BOWLES







The England team coach was held up by activists on its way to Lord's yesterday. Jonny Bairstow warned his followers about the delay but the Test went ahead on time

Climate group face contempt charge risk

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A judge has said that an Olympic gold medallist, a priest, a retired police sergeant and more than 20 others should be prosecuted over a court protest in support of fellow environmental activists.

Etienne Stott, 43, who won a canoeing gold medal for Team GB at London 2012, and the Rev Sue Parfitt, 81, were part of a group of 24 protesters who staged a demonstration outside Inner London crown court last month.

They held up signs telling members of the jury that they were legally entitled to acquit climate change protesters of public order offences if they agreed with the cause.

The group was demonstrating against the actions of Judge Silas Reid, who in April ordered the arrest of Trudi Warner, 68, for standing outside the court holding a similar sign. Warner's protest was prompted by an order from Reid that prevented climate activists, who were on trial for causing a public nuisance, from referring to climate change in their defence during the trial.

The same judge was presiding over another trial at Inner London crown court in May of four Insulate Britain supporters who had blocked a central London street in October.

The judge has now referred all 24 of the protesters at the Inner London case, one of them a doctor, to Victoria Prentis, the attorney-general, and recommended that they be prosecuted for contempt of court. An official at the attorney-general's office confirmed that Prentis was considering the referral.

Protest leaders said that the statement on the placards — "Jurors have an absolute right to acquit a defendant according to their conscience" — reflected a "centuries-old principle of British law" that was displayed in marble by the original entrance to the Old Bailey.

MPs to question ITV chief over Schofield

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Dame Carolyn McCall, ITV's chief executive, is to meet a cross-party group of MPs to discuss the broadcaster's handling of the Phillip Schofield affair.

McCall will appear before the culture, media and sport committee on June 14 and will answer questions about Schofield's resignation from the broadcaster after more than two decades, and his "unwise but not illegal" relationship with a younger male runner.

The committee, led by its newly appointed chairwoman, Dame Caroline Dinenage, was initially keen for McCall to appear at a session on Tuesday, arranged to explore the forthcoming Media Bill. That session will go ahead with Magnus Brooke, ITV's group director of strategy, policy and regulation, appearing alongside Channel 4 and Channel 5 policy chiefs but will not address the Schofield affair.

Instead, just over a week later MPs will have the opportunity to interview McCall, who has led ITV for five years.

Dinenage said: "I'm less interested in conducting a witch-hunt around certain individuals than making sure that the systems and processes are in place to ensure that young members of staff are not unintentionally the victims of powerful TV stars and execs who have the power to make or break people's careers in their hands. I also want to make sure that there is the right safeguarding and process in place for whistleblowers."

Insiders have indicated that the employee, who left ITV after three years in 2021, did not receive any payment beyond standard redundancy and was not bound by any unusual agreements preventing him from speaking out.

On Wednesday McCall wrote to Dinenage, Lucy Frazer, the culture secretary, and Melanie Dawes, Ofcom's chief executive, hinting at her frustration with the heightened speculation surrounding events at ITV.

In her response to McCall, Dinenage said that she intended to take up the issue of safeguarding and complaint handling at ITV and across the media, saying: " It is incumbent upon all media organisations to demonstrate how seriously they take their responsibilities."

Schofield, 61, was pictured yesterday for the first time since he left ITV. He was in a car in London with a young woman, said to be his daughter, Ruby.

Holly Willoughby, his former co-host, is likely to be questioned by Jane Mulcahy KC as part of the external inquiry that ITV has set up. She is on half-term holiday but is expected to return to *This Morning* on Monday. A source close to her said: "She is a good person that doesn't deserve any of this."

I didn't groom colleague, says shamed star

Phillip Schofield has denied grooming a younger male colleague who worked on *This Morning*, claiming that the secret relationship was "consensual" but not a "love affair" (Kieran Gair writes).

In his first interview since leaving the broadcaster and the ITV morning show, the presenter told The Sun: "I did not, I did not [groom him].

"There are accusations of all sorts of things. It never came across that way because we'd become mates. I don't know about that. But of course I understand that there will be a massive judgment, but bearing in mind, I have never exercised that anywhere else."

Schofield also said that his "greatest apology" was to his former lover, who has been brought the "greatest misery into his totally innocent life".

He added: "I am deeply sorry and I apologise to him because I should have known better. I will die sorry. I am so deeply mortified."

The TV personality is believed to have first met the man when he was 15 years old but said that the affair did not begin until the runner was 20. Schofield said: "At the time I did not think about it possibly ruining my career. I really probably only thought about it when I saw the rumour mill, and saw it growing.

"But I didn't lie to protect my career, he didn't want his name in public. He wanted his own life."

The relationship with the young runner moved beyond friendship in 2017, Schofield said.

"Then one day something happened that just changed it," he said. "That is the moment I look back on, and regret so deeply. It was in my dressing room in 2017, it was a consensual moment, it was mutual. It was not a love affair, it was not a relationship. We were not boyfriends; we were mates."

He continued: "I was really struggling with my sexuality at that time in the build-up to what happened. But over a period of time it happened maybe five or six times.

"We just didn't think anyone knew, there was no lying, we thought, stupidly, that nobody knew."

On the appropriateness of the relationship, Schofield told the BBC in a separate interview that his interactions with the younger colleague before he joined *This Morning* were "completely innocent".

He said: "It was a totally innocent picture, a totally innocent Twitter follow – I follow 11,400 people – and then it was a completely innocent backwards and forwards over a period of time about a job, about careers. What's wrong with that? What's wrong with talking to someone no matter what age they are?

"Does that mean that if you're following anyone on Twitter that you absolutely don't talk to anybody else or you don't give advice?"

He added: "The brief communications backwards and forwards up to the point that he came to work on *This Morning* I think was just chat. What was unwise was the fact that it happened. That was a very, very grave error. It was consensual, but it was my fault."

After the admission of the affair, evidence of the relationship has continued to emerge. This has included a showreel taster tape filmed in the *This Morning* studios, featuring the runner and said to be paid for by ITV, as well as photographs of him posing alongside Schofield and Holly Willoughby.

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Step class The massed ranks of the Guards at the Brigade Major's Review on Horse Guards Parade, a rehearsal for Trooping the Colour before the King on June 17

Vape warning after pupils hospitalised

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

Two head teachers in Hampshire have written to parents warning of a spate of hospital admissions among pupils who have been using suspected illegal vapes.

One pupil suffered a seizure and fell unconscious, with others experiencing accelerated heart rates after using e-cigarettes. The children involved are all believed to have been using vapes with contents that "were not what they appeared to be", the schools said.

It follows warnings from health officials about the proliferation of illegal vapes containing dangerous chemicals such as lead and nickel, which are being sold to children. One in ten secondary schoolchildren vape, the latest NHS figures show, despite it being illegal to sell e-cigarettes to under-18s.

The latest alert was issued by the head teachers of two secondary schools in Romsey — The Mountbatten School and The Romsey School. Between them, the academies educate 2,500 pupils aged between 11 and 16.

Rishi Sunak this week announced measures to reduce vaping among teenagers, including closing a loophole that allows free vapes to be given to under-18s. Teachers will be given briefing packs about the dangers of vaping.

Sacked civil servant wins £100,000 payout

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

A sacked civil servant has received a £100,000 settlement after she reported concerns about political activists operating in Whitehall and expressed her belief that people cannot change sex.

Anna Thomas, 32, had said that political activism was infiltrating the civil service and cited the dissemination of critical race theory in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Thomas, formerly a work coach at a Jobcentre in Portsmouth, tried to raise the alarm about resources for staff, including an exercise asking employees to "assume" that they were racist.

Thomas also posted on an intranet blog expressing her opinion that people could not change sex. "One of the comments I made that they took massive offence to was [that] you cannot identify as a female. I believe you either are one or you're not," Thomas said. "It wasn't intentionally meant to offend anyone — but they said transgender colleagues could find it offensive."

Thomas, who first recorded concerns about the civil service in 2020, won the settlement with the help of the Free Speech Union campaign group.

Thomas said employees were directed to an "anti-racism hub" on the DWP intranet. She said that it encouraged civil servants to treat racism like Covid and "assume that you have it", after the murder of George Floyd, a black man, by a white police officer in the US.



Anna Thomas was sacked after she expressed worries about activism in the civil service

She said the hub had a statement by Peter Schofield, the permanent secretary, telling staff they were "responsible for being actively anti-racist". Staff were also allegedly directed to the work of Robin DiAngelo, a critical race theorist who has written that white identity is "inherently racist".

Thomas complained to the team responsible for the resources, as well as the whistle-blowing team, saying that she believed the DWP was breaching its impartiality obligations under the civil service code.

She was then investigated for misconduct, including allegations that she had said discriminatory things and was causing offence. However, she claims that her whistle-blowing complaint was upheld and the DWP's behavioural science expert advised that the anti-racism hub was political. The DWP is said to have subsequently removed certain content from its online resources.

Thomas was dismissed in November 2021. She said she understood it was because she was found to have caused "upset", "distress" and "offence". She claimed to be the victim of unfair dismissal, belief discrimination, victimisation and harassment.

After three preliminary hearings, the DWP has agreed to pay her £100,000, of which £27,500 is for injury to her feelings. It did not admit any liability.

A DWP spokesman said: "We can confirm an employment tribunal claim was settled . . . without the need for further legal proceedings."



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Rare ghost orchid offers haunting sight with first flowering

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

A rare orchid that featured in Susan Orlean's bestseller *The Orchid Thief* has flowered in Britain for the first time.

The Florida ghost orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*), on show at Kew Gardens, was cultivated from a seed germinated in a laboratory at Florida University nine years ago. The plant has flowered despite being flown overnight from Chicago to the UK and exposed to the vagaries of the British weather at the Chelsea Flower Show.

The species is used to the humidity and warmth of South Florida and Cuba but thanks to controlled conditions at Kew after Chelsea it was fully open by yesterday morning.

Mike Fay, senior research leader at Kew Gardens, said: "It doesn't produce true leaves. It just has a little knot of roots. After it's managed to accumulate enough nutrients — some of which it can produce itself by photosynthesis, but much of which it gets from a fungus that lives in the roots — then it can produce a flower.

"Once it opens you've got a relatively large plant apparently springing out of nothing — that's why it gets the name of ghost orchid."

When the species blooms it releases a strong smell, attracting hawk moths that use their long tongues to reach its nectar and pollinate it. The white flower, which has a slightly greenish tinge, is also fondly called the "leaping frog orchid" because two of its petals have appendages similar to a frog's back legs.

The orchid is categorised as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Its rarity is a result of extensive logging of its host tree, the bald cypress, during the Second World World to make aircraft carrier decks. Only about 2,000 *D. lindenii* plants are thought to exist.



The Florida Ghost Orchid grew from a seed germinated at Florida University

About 40 per cent of all plants are at risk of extinction, according to a 2020 report by Kew Gardens. Fay said that the flowering of the ghost orchid showed that species could be protected if people worked together. "We're trying to put across a positive message of conservation," he said.

People wanting to see the flower at Kew should be quick. It is expected to survive until early next week or a few days later at best.



DAVID CLARKE/SOLENT NEWS



Moon was reunited with her mother, Astra, at Miller's Ark Animals

Stolen miniature donkey back safe

A three-month-old miniature donkey snatched by thieves a fortnight ago has been reunited with her mother (Mario Ledwith writes).

Moon was found almost 40 miles from the farm on the Earl of Malmesbury's estate in Hook, Hampshire, from where she disappeared on May 15.

The theft prompted an outpouring of concern from members of the public, who put up a £10,000 reward for information.

A social media post about the theft was shared thousands of times and Hampshire police received "countless calls" about possible sightings and lines of inquiry.

Staff at Miller's Ark Animals, a rare breeds and mobile farm, were "absolutely delighted" to have Moon back, the owner, Elizabeth Miller, said. Moon had been taken while still feeding from her mother, Astra, who had been left pacing her field in distress.

Concerns were heightened because Moon is a Mediterranean miniature donkey, a breed that does not have a rainproof coat and can get cold at night. She is only 1ft 6in tall.

After a tip-off, staff and Hampshire police found Moon in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. She immediately began to swish her tail and came to them for cuddles.

Miller, 61, said that Astra was "a bit huffy" at first but by last night was beginning to graze closer to her foal. Her milk had dried up because of the separation. The theft is the first at the farm in its 33-year history.

Miller said that £6,500 raised by crowdfunding after Moon went missing will be used to install security cameras. Hampshire police have yet to make any arrests in connection with the incident.

Pony spit a real tonic for jaded roses

Constance Kampfner

Gardeners wanting to spruce up their gardens should ditch fertiliser and replace it with pony spit, according to Britain's leading rewilder.

Isabella Tree, who runs the Knepp estate in West Sussex, said that animal saliva was the secret to growing fuller rose bushes. The author and conservationist is best known for her book *Wilding*, her account of how she transformed 3,500 acres of land in the grounds of Knepp Castle from farmland into rich natural habitat.

Tree, 59, explained that studies had shown "that if you collect some animal saliva, even if it's pony spit or something, and anoint that little bit that you cut with your secateurs, the enzyme in the spit, the plant can read it and it goes even crazier. It gets bushier and throws out even more flowers."

Sharing tips in a talk at the Hay Festival, she said: "What are you doing when you're pruning your rose bush in your garden with your secateurs? You're being a proxy for a deer or a pony. It thinks it's under attack from a herbivore so it throws out more flowers."

Tree encouraged people who wanted to create nature-friendly gardens to think "differently". When creating a garden pond, "you would think like a beaver", she explained. "You would throw in some branches of wood and let that wood rot down for the algae that will feed the tiny fish that will kick start the life cycle of species in your pond."

In her latest publication, *The Book of Wilding: a Practical Guide to Rewilding, Big and Small*, Tree argues that anyone can rewild, whether they have access to large swathes of land or a back garden.

Live with wolves, 'arrogant' Britons told

Constance Kampfner

Britain's arrogance about rewilding is preventing it from reintroducing long-lost predators, says the financier and green campaigner Ben Goldsmith.

Goldsmith, who chairs the Conservative Environment Network, said that Britons had a moral duty to learn to live with once-native animals, including wolves and lynxes, that were forced into extinction by our ancestors.

"Britain-wide, what's with this British exceptionalism that we are somehow too grand and too civilised to rewild?" Goldsmith asked during a talk at the Hay Festival with the environmentalist Isabella Tree.

"Countries which are significantly poorer and more food-insecure than we are, we expect them to look after their wolves and their lions and their jaguars and all these other charismatic species, but when it comes to Britain, 'No, no, no'."

The argument for reintroducing species to Britain has been gaining ground in recent years.

Beavers have returned to rivers, bison are roaming the countryside for the first time in thousands of years in Kent, and studies are being carried out in England and Scotland assessing the feasibility of reintroducing lynx.

However, there are no plans to bring back wolves. They are thought to have been eradicated from Britain during the 18th century, mainly due to concerns about their impact on sheep farming.

Goldsmith, 42, argued that rewilding projects in Europe had shown that farmers and predators could coexist and that it was "inevitable that we'll get back lynx and eventually wolves".



Ben Goldsmith says Europe has proved rewilding projects work

"It's absurd, this idea that wolves can be trotting around the outskirts of Brussels or Amsterdam, or just across the water in Normandy … it's absurd that we can't have wildlife like that here," he said.

"People say, 'Well, farmers hate them', it's simply not true. In France, if you're growing crops, if you're growing vines, if you're growing vegetables and fruit, if you've got pigs which are susceptible to African swine fever, then the real problem for you is exploding numbers of deer and exploding numbers of wild boar."

He added: "The only places in Europe where those animals are under control is where wolves have made a recovery. One pack of wolves in Spain was observed to kill 50 deer and 50 wild boar in a single year. So those farmers are delighted with the return of wolves."

He acknowledged that there was a risk to livestock but argued that this was a price worth paying. "All wildlife is difficult," Goldsmith said. "All my chickens got killed last year by a fox. Do I want foxes eradicated? Would we get permission to reintroduce foxes if they were extinct in Britain? I doubt it.

"Otters will eat your decorative fish, pine martens will make a hole in your roof and move into the space up there and keep you awake at night. Everything's a nuisance."

He added: "The challenge, I think, is to put back what we remove, that's our moral duty, and to find a way to coexist and find harmony."

Goldsmith, whose brother Zac is a Conservative life peer and the minister for the Commonwealth and overseas territories, claimed that farming representatives had undue influence over the decision-makers in Defra and had held back progress on rewilding, including on the reintroduction of beavers.

News

Sewage spill firm rewards its shareholders

Clean it up
WATER CAMPAIGN

Robert Miller

The owner of South West Water, which operates in one of only two regions officially in drought, has raised its shareholder dividend by more than 10 per cent to £112 million despite reporting a loss and being fined for illegally dumping sewage.

Pennon Group, which also owns Bristol Water, said it made a pre-tax loss of £8.5 million in the year to April, compared with a profit of £127.7 million in the previous 12 months. It was hit by higher costs and extreme weather conditions. Despite the loss-making financial year, the water company lifted its annual dividend by 10.9 per cent to 42.73p per share from 38.53p last year.

The payout comes as suppliers are under mounting pressure from regulators and the public to reduce sewage spills and modernise networks.

"This has been an extraordinary year for Pennon in which extreme weather patterns have tested our operational resilience," Susan Davy, Pennon's group chief executive, said. The company, founded in 1989, serves a population of 3.5 million in the southwest with about 380,000 business customers. It employs 3,000 people.

The supplier blamed its annual loss on inflation, which it said had driven up power costs. Overall, its operating costs increased by 26.6 per cent to £517.2 million on revenue of £825 million. Pennon also said it was partly because of "lower customer demand as a result of continued water efficiency promotion", meaning the knock-on impact of encouraging households to use less water and save money.

Ofwat, the water regulator, has previously investigated South West Water over sewage dumping and environmental performance. In April it was fined £2.15 million for illegally dumping sewage into rivers and the sea in Devon and Cornwall, causing environmental harm after a case brought by the Environment Agency.

Last month the water watchdog began a new investigation into whether Pennon accurately reported its leakage performance — which refers to water lost through leaks in the pipeline network.

Pennon said it had invested more than £13 billion in upgrading sewage treatment works, as well as spending about £160 million in renewable energy generation. Davy said that 30 years ago nearly half of all household and business sewage in South West Water's region was untreated and discharged directly into the sea.

Pennon said there were signs that inflation was beginning to stabilise, but the global economy continued to be "volatile". It said that average household bills would go up in the year ahead, but at a lower rate than cost inflation — with South West Water rising by 0.8 per cent and Bristol Water bills by 5.5 per cent.

Pennon said that the "vast majority" of its customers found their bill affordable, and pledged to keep bills as low as possible and eliminate water poverty.



FINNBARR WEBSTER/GETTY IMAGES



Roar talent The Imps motorcycle display team flies a Ukrainian flag at the Royal Bath and West Show at Shepton Mallet, in Somerset, which ends tomorrow

Email alert: extreme heat can damage your health

Peter Chappell

An alert system has been set up to warn the public in England this summer when high temperatures could damage their health.

It is hoped that the email notification system, operated by the Met Office and the UK Health Security Agency, will reduce the risk of illness and the number of deaths among the most vulnerable.

Temperatures in Britain exceeded 40C for the first time last summer, leading to fires and drought across many parts of the country. Last year was the UK's warmest on record, and all of the hottest ten years on record have been in the past two decades.

The Heat Health Alert system will operate continuously, but the core alerting season will run from 1 June to 30 September. The system will offer regional information and advice from NHS England.

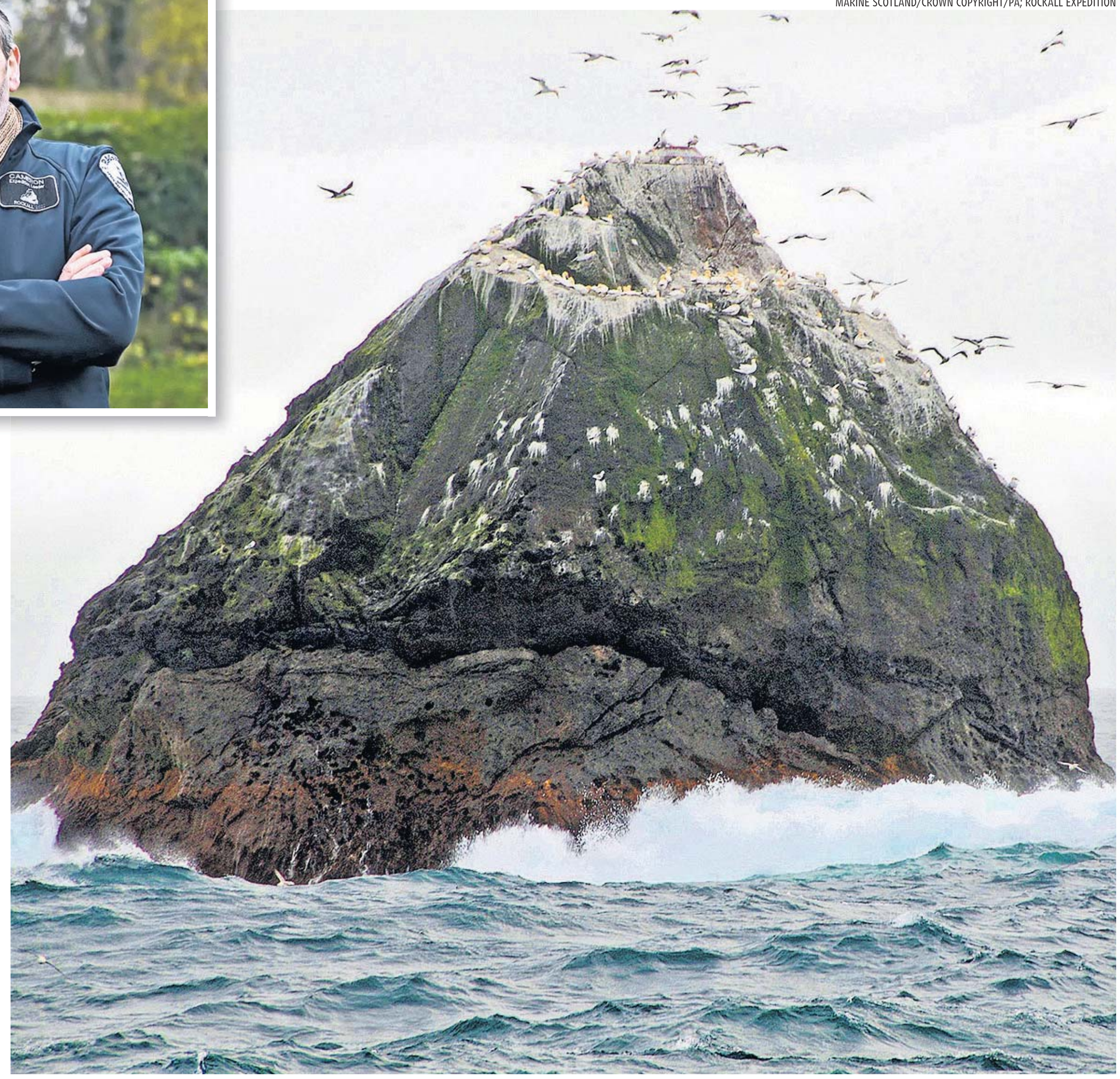
The public can sign up to receive alerts directly via the UK Health Security Agency page on the gov.uk website, and specify their region.

There will be four alert colours, with green indicating minimal risk to health. Yellow means the heat could affect those who are particularly vulnerable, over the age of 65 or have an underlying health condition. Amber means the effects are likely to be felt across the whole health service and may begin to affect the wider population. Red means a significant risk to life even for healthy people and a severe effect expected across all sectors.

Dr Agostinho Moreira Sousa, head of extreme events and health protection at the UK Health Security Agency, said: "Last year saw record high temperatures across England, and evidence shows that heatwaves are likely to occur more often, be more intense and last longer in the years and decades ahead. It is important we are able to quantify the likely impacts of these heatwaves before they arrive, in order to prevent illness and reduce the number of deaths."



MARINE SCOTLAND/CROWN COPYRIGHT/PA; ROCKALL EXPEDITION



The remote outcrop is 220 miles off the Outer Hebrides and home to Chris Cameron, who aims to stay there for 60 days

Rough start for explorers in bid to break Rockall record

Lucinda Cameron

An adventurer who is attempting to break the world record for the longest stay on a remote craggy outcrop had a sticky start when one of his team members was twice swept into the North Atlantic by high swells.

Emil Bergmann, an experienced mountaineer from Bulgaria, was the first of his party to land on Rockall, a granite islet about 220 miles from the Outer Hebrides, where he was tasked with fixing lines to allow Chris "Cam" Cameron and Nobby Styles to follow.

"But the swell was so great that he was twice washed into the sea before he was able to clamber on at the third attempt," an official report from the record attempt said.

Cameron, an army veteran who served for six years with the Gordon Highlanders regiment, plans to remain on the rock for 60 days to break the record of 45 days set by Nick Hancock in the summer of 2014.

The expedition aims to raise £50,000 for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity and ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

The two other crew members are radio operators who will spend a week broadcasting transmissions from Rockall before heading home.

The report added: "Cameron said their yacht, the Taeping, had made three passes of the rock before they attempted a landing in rigid inflatable boats carried by their vessel."

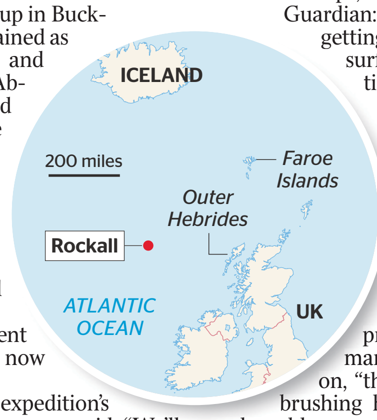
In a message posted on social media from his new home, Cameron announced: "We made it, team. Thanks everyone. All safe. Tough ascent. Rough at the base of the Rock and weather is pretty good."

Another update from the expedition read: "We still have a long way to go, and Cam has a lot of nights on the Rock yet but phase 1 — the arrival — is complete!

"Thank you to every single donor so far no matter what the size of donation. Every penny will help make a big difference to two amazing charities."

The UK has claimed sovereignty over the outcrop since 1955. It stands about 21m above sea level and is 100m in circumference and is best known for featuring on the Shipping Forecast. It also has its own Twitter account.

Cameron, who is married and has two children, grew up in Buckie, in Moray, and trained as a marine biologist and oceanographer in Aberdeen. Now based in Wiltshire, he works as a senior trainer for Babcock International Group, providing specialist training to military personnel within the UK.



Styles is from Kent and Bergmann now lives in Germany.

On the expedition's JustGiving page, Cameron said: "We'll do the tough part, if you could make a donation to the charities, we'll keep going for as long as we can." After the initial mishaps, Cameron told The Guardian: "God it was difficult getting on because of the surf. The weather conditions were just about favourable but [it was] just the surf around the base of the rock.

"We had three attempts and got on on the fourth. It was extremely difficult."

Once they approached and Bergmann tried to clamber on, "the swell was literally brushing him straight off the rock and he was gone. But he made it third time around."

The earliest recorded date of landing on the island is 1811, when Basil Hall, a Royal Navy officer, led a party from HMS Endymion to the summit.

The 1955 annexation was the final territorial expansion of the British Empire. Rockall was incorporated into the district of Harris in the county of Inverness-shire in the Island of Rockall Act 1972, which reinforced the UK government's seabed rights in the area.

In the earlier endurance attempt, Hancock, the current record-holder, an explorer and surveyor who lives in Ratho, near Edinburgh, had hoped to stay there for longer but was unable to do so after he lost important supplies in a storm.

Tom McClean, a former SAS member and survival expert, held the record before Hancock. He lived on Rockall from May 26, 1985 to July 4, 1985.

Cheese firm cuts giant down to size

Kieran Gair

The local mayor says that the Cerne Abbas Giant's "member is what makes him magnificent" but a cheese company has been accused of "castrating" the landmark out of concern that the phallus is too unpalatable for its packaging.

The geoglyph has loomed large over the Dorset countryside for centuries but when the Oxford Cheese Company crafted a Cerne Abbas Cheddar named after the 180ft landmark, it removed his 36ft manhood from some packaging.

The giant's perceived emasculation has prompted anger in Dorset. Vic Irvine, head brewer at Cerne Abbas Brewery, which uses a picture of the giant on its branding, said: "It's abhorrent to castrate him. If they are taking his manhood away, then I hope nobody buys it. It shows no regard for our county. We should call them the Cambridge Cheese Company and see how they like it. If you don't like it, don't use our giant. The whole thing makes me really cross. I'm incandescent with rage."

Alistair Chisholm, the mayor of Dorchester, said: "It makes a mockery of it. His member is what makes him magnificent. It would just be plain wrong to make him amorphous."



The Cerne Abbas Giant in Dorset has been unmanned by an Oxford firm

The cheese company said that it had been forced to introduce a second label after a woman filed a complaint with her local store. Robert Pouget, the company's founder, said that the redesigned version was sold only in the store where the complaint was filed. He did not disclose the store's location. The company had not removed the giant's phallus, Pouget added, but instead given him a pair of trousers.

Paul Watson, cellar-master for the cheese company, said: "The original owner of the company chose that image because it is so memorable. I'm not sure exactly why he isn't whole on some of the cheeses, but I suspect it is to make sure the label doesn't get too cluttered. On larger cheeses I think all of him is included."

Calls to cover up the giant's modesty have been resisted for years. The landmark, now under the care of the National Trust, is thought to have been created between AD700-1100. Legend has it that having sex on the figure will cure infertility and the Office for National Statistics noted in 2010 that women living nearby were the most fertile in Britain, with an average of three children each.

Veteran is first swimmer to reach the Isle of Man

Emma Yeomans

A former army captain was stung by jellyfish, buffeted by the tides and had a close encounter with dolphins as he became the first person to swim from Britain to the Isle of Man.

Adam Diver, 46, from Fleetwood, Lancashire, described the 32-mile swim across the Irish Sea, which took him two and a half days, as "a suffer fest".

He believes he swam about 46 miles as he zigzagged due to changing tides.

Diver, who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and Bosnia, had to abandon his first attempt in July last year in bad weather.

This time, he set off from St Bees in Cumbria at about 8am on Monday. He finally arrived into Port Mooar on the Isle of Man at about 3pm on Wednesday. He stopped every 25 minutes of the journey to eat and drink, incorporating the breaks into his training regime so his stomach got used to it.

A highlight of the journey was hearing a clicking noise under the water from a group of dolphins. He told The Guardian: "I shouted up to the boat crew that I could hear something in the water — dolphins talking to each other. Ten minutes later they then saw them about 100 metres away."

Diver made the swim to increase awareness of mental health problems for the Burnley-based charity Healthier Heroes, which helps war veterans overcome social isolation and homelessness, raising more than £12,000.

He said: " It's been a really tough few days. It's an amazing feeling now it's done."

Strikes ‘normalise’ skipping school

Emma Yeomans

Teacher strikes have normalised children missing school on a regular basis despite many youngsters struggling after lockdown, the children’s commissioner has said.

Dame Rachel de Souza, the children’s commissioner for England, said getting persistently absent children back into school had to be an absolute priority for the government and for teachers.

She told the *Today* programme on Radio 4: “For the first time during lockdown … children suddenly realised schools could close. I think the strikes are adding to that.

“The value placed on their education is just not where it should be. So I want the adults around the table sorting it out, because it has to be a national priority to get children back to school.”

Before lockdown, roughly 10 per cent of children were persistently absent — defined as missing 10 per cent or more of their education. Now 22 per cent of children are classed as persistently absent, equivalent to 1.6 million children missing at least a tenth of their schooling, de Souza said.

She said: “We’ve actually got a crisis of attendance. Schools are doing a fantastic job [but] I think we need to be far more systematic. Attendance is everyone’s problem.

“If I was the secretary of state, I’d be looking at the attendance figures first thing on Monday morning and asking all my ministers and making sure absolutely every professional is on it. This is the biggest problem facing us and it’s becoming normalised.”

De Souza said the majority of persistently absent children wanted to be in school but faced barriers such as a lack of support for special educational needs or unaddressed mental health problems, or were simply “out of the habit”.

She added: “We need GPs to be understanding about children’s mental health and anxiety, and that children with anxiety are going to be better served in school.

“When we look at what works, we see groups of schools with their local authorities using the systems to identify the children [then find] out what is really going on and getting them back into school. It costs time, it costs money and it’s got to be a national priority.”

Seamus Murphy, chief executive of Turner Schools, which has six schools in Folkestone and Dover, said absence was worse in secondary schools and Covid had disrupted family habits.

He said: “When I talk to my attendance officers, they say Friday appears to be the new weekend. Parents seem inclined to let their children stay at home.

“That stubborn group of children in secondaries who are just not attending, they tend to be in families where life is quite chaotic. There may be issues with housing, broader issues around food. That level of chaos makes it very difficult to get children into school.”

PHILIP BROWN/POPPERFOTO/GETTY IMAGES



How’s stat **An MCC member bones up on his cricket facts as he awaits play on the first day of the Test between England and Ireland at Lord’s.** Sport, pages 65-68

Pub landlord’s bet on boy nets £50,000

Seren Hughes

Every parent thinks their child has the talent to make it to the big time in the sport they play, but very few of those children actually follow through.

Tim Piper, 56, had so much faith in the abilities of the son of one of his team-mates at Redditch Cricket Club that he put a £100 bet on the 11-year-old boy playing a Test match for England.

Josh Tongue is now 25 and made his Test match debut against Ireland yesterday. The Worcestershire player’s success means Piper, the landlord of the Cricketers Arms pub in Redditch, will take home £50,000.

So confident was Piper in Tongue’s future success that he wanted to place the bet when the child was just six years old, but no bookmaker would take him on. The Tongue family moved out of Redditch soon afterwards, but Piper and Phil remained friends and he kept an eye on the boy at Worcestershire.

He eventually placed the bet 14 years ago, when Tongue was 11, at odds of 500-1, with the head office of Coral.

After impressing this week as injury cover for James Anderson and Ollie Robinson, Tongue was selected for the match against Ireland.

Piper will be watching the match at home before celebrating at his pub, and plans on taking the Tongues out for a meal with some of his winnings. “I’m so happy for the family,” he said.



Captain Underpants almost cost Atwood her sequel

Constance Kampfner

Margaret Atwood has admitted she has a secret penchant for watching children's movies on planes and was once so distracted by *Captain Underpants* that she forgot a laptop containing the manuscript of her novel *The Testaments*.

Although the author said she usually intended to get some writing done while travelling, her "bad habit" often got in the way. En route to Wales for the Hay Festival, she said she had watched "the latest in the *Hotel Transylvania* series" — the fourth instalment of the film franchise, about monsters who live in a hotel to escape from their human persecutors, released last year.

Atwood, 83, also described having "a really edgy *Captain Underpants* adventure" on another journey, which almost resulted in the loss of the carefully guarded draft of the sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*.

"I had my computer on a plane and I opened it up intending to do some work on the manuscript of *The Testaments*," the writer said. "This was the manuscript that someone was trying to steal at the time by pretending to be agents and publishers. So we were all supposed to be on high alert.

"I started watching *Captain Underpants* and I got so distracted ... that I left my open computer on the plane."

Atwood only realised it was missing when she got home. Rather than filling out a lost property form, she messaged Air Canada directly on Twitter. The airline's staff were only too happy to oblige their country's leading author and the computer was delivered to her on the curb outside Toronto airport. "I was deeply grateful," she said, rewarding them with a signed copy.

Asked how she balanced her writing with other demands, Atwood said she had always "fitted it in around whatever else I was doing". She said the only people who could do otherwise were like the heroes in a Henry James story.

"He has a nice estate, has a beautiful garden, he has a lovely wife. He has a study, somebody brings him tea at eleven, he has a lovely lunch to which he invites his interesting artistic friends. Somebody else cleans up," Atwood said. "That's not my life."

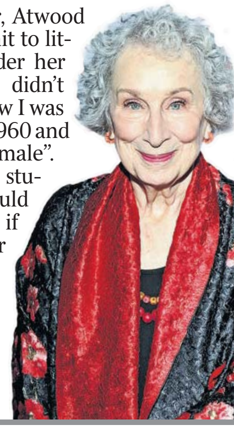
In the mid-1960s, the author had a stint working at a market research company in Toronto, drafting questionnaires. "I could do that job in the morning and in the afternoon I would take the novel I was writing and roll it through the typewriter — looked very busy," Atwood recalled. "The boss knew I was doing it."

She said that her first novel, which was never published, was called *Thank You Providence*: "I can tell you something about it — it ended with the female protagonist wondering whether or not to push the male protagonist off a roof. Ahead of its time. So it did get rejected by everyone."

Early in her career, Atwood said, she would submit to literary magazines under her initials, "because I didn't want anybody to know I was a girl, because it was 1960 and everything was very male".

She was told as a student that she would never be successful if she published under her nickname, Peggy. "This person who actually knew something about publishing in those days, said, 'If you call yourself Peggy. nobody will take you seriously'. Think about it: there are some actresses called Peggy, but that's about it. There's a singer called Peggy. But can you think of any serious poets called Peggy? No," Atwood said.

"So I changed to initials and then I changed to Margaret, which means, of course, that I have a double identity."



Margaret Atwood, gripped by the cartoon, forgot to pick up her laptop with her novel

TMS

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Sunak's pitch for popularity

Rishi Sunak's aides fear their boss might be about to make a disastrous pitch in America. Our Washington elf reports that, when the PM visits next week, it will coincide with a baseball match in the city and he will be invited to throw the first pitch. His staff want him to decline but the PM fancies it as he esteems himself a good cricketer. History shows this promises triumph or disaster. Barack Obama was mocked when his effort fell short. On the other hand, pitching is George W Bush's only claim to being the greatest president, doing so seven times while in the White House. It is surprising that Sunak has any interest in baseball. You'd have thought he's had enough of seeing people have multiple strikes.

We are told that health and safety has saved many lives, but there are surely some places where its notices are inappropriate. The comedian Tom Allen told the Hay Festival that, at his father's cremation, he was amused that the first sign he saw in the building said: "What to do in the event of a fire".

DIALECTICAL CRITICISM
Also at the festival, *Countdown*'s Susie Dent admitted that her lexicographical knowledge didn't stop her from suffering bouts of frustration at not being able to find the right words. She said that these moments of *l'esprit de l'escalier* were common, but she did once find *le mot juste.* "I was in a party and there was somebody who was being really annoying and had had too much to drink," she said. "As nicely as possible, I said 'I find you very crambazzled'." The gentleman took it as a compliment, unaware that it was Yorkshire dialect for being prematurely aged from excessive drinking.

SINGER'S STINGING REBUKE
The TV producer Rob Burley is an expert on the political interview, but this is no preparation for making small talk. In his new book, *Why is This Lying Bastard Lying to Me?*, he recalls a time in 2005 when he had to keep the rockstar Sting entertained in a studio green room. Burley decided to ask the Police frontman about innovations in the musical world and took out his iPod as an ice-breaker. "It's just more noise pollution," Sting said sharply, ending the conversation. "I wish I'd bravely shot back that you could say the same about his excruciating solo career, but that wasn't really an option," Burley writes. Of course, Sting is very sensitive to noise pollution as he's listening to every breath you take.

There's nothing like familial support. The comedian Ben Elton tells Rob Brydon's podcast that, when his son was 12, the boy turned to him and said: "We've got one thing in common." Elton asked what this was and his son replied: "Neither of us have made it in America."

OSMAN GETS PG TIPS
After selling a few million crime novels, Richard Osman, below, is getting cocky. "I'd love a crack at a Wodehouse," he says, seeking to pastiche where Ben Schott and Sebastian Faulks have pastiched before. "I can get into his groove." For tips he need look no further than Alexander Armstrong, formerly the Bertie to his Jeeves on the BBC quiz *Pointless.* As president of the PG Wodehouse Society, Armstrong calls the works "a golden beam of benign English sunshine". The comparison with English sun highlights just how rare Wodehouse's writing is.



JACK BLACKBURN



News

Bacteria on coral reefs rewrite the rule book



PETE WEST/TARA OCEAN FOUNDATION

The eight-year study of Pacific coral found the range of micro-organisms was in line with all microbial life on Earth

Hiding away on the Pacific's coral reefs is the same diversity of bacteria known to exist across Earth, suggesting there are "drastically" more species of micro-organisms globally than thought (Adam Vaughan writes).

The finding, the result of an eight-year research project by scientists across Europe and the US, shows the world risks losing an incredible richness of microbial life if the decline of coral reefs continues because of climate change. Coral reefs make up 0.2 per cent of the ocean but about 30 per cent of all marine species. It turns out they are also rich in microbes. "What amazed us is the huge diversity of microbes that we detected that we counted across the Pacific reef," said Pierre Galand, of the Oceanological Observatory of Banyuls-sur-Mer, France. Galand and his colleagues spent two years on an expedition across the Pacific, taking samples at 99 reefs across 32 islands.

They collected two species of fish — the Moorish idol and Convict tang — one species of plankton and three species of coral to examine the DNA of any bacteria that could be detected on the six organisms.

Finally, the team spent six years using genetic sequencing to count all the types of bacteria. They found 542,000 species of micro-organism, which were mostly bacteria.

Once the team extrapolated upwards to account for all the different types of fish and other species in the Pacific's coral reefs, the number rose to an estimated 2.8 million species of micro-organism.

That figure is in line with estimates of all microbial life on Earth. "[These are] huge numbers. It indicates that the diversity of the microbiome on Earth is underestimated," said Galand.

The bacteria provide essential services for coral species, including producing B vitamins and amino acids that are important for their health. "It's a fine balance between the microbiome and the coral itself, and that balance is fragile. So if the bacteria are in trouble, the coral will also be in trouble, and the other way around," Galand said.

Serge Planes, of the French National Centre for Scientific Research, said the results, published in the journal Nature Communications, showed coral reefs were a "hotspot" of biodiversity and a reminder of why reefs needed protecting. He added that coral reefs were in "crisis" and suffering declines globally.



The value of every third item per single transaction in descending price order will be deducted. Excludes products sold and shipped by verified sellers on diy.com. Prices may vary in B&Q Local stores. Subject to availability. Ends 5 June. See diy.com

Hotspots where rocks could heat homes cleanly

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

The people of Brighton, Eastbourne, Middlesbrough, Sheffield and York may not know it, but "hot rocks" far below their feet could one day warm their homes with a clean source of heat.

They are among 45 local authorities identified as having the greatest potential for deep geothermal energy in a report commissioned by Boris Johnson and presented this week to Rishi Sunak.

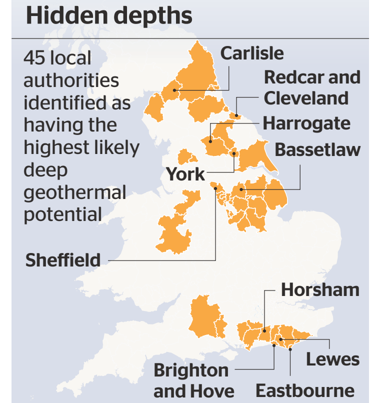
Deep geothermal projects, which typically involve sending water at least 500 metres down boreholes to be warmed before bringing it back to the surface, are used across Europe. Paris heats about 250,000 homes this way. But the low-carbon heating source is largely untapped in the UK, with the notable exception of a 1986 scheme in Southampton.

The British Geological Society and other experts have previously mapped the broad areas where geology is most favourable, but the new report by the University of Durham and the Tory MP Kieran Mullan reveals a much more detailed picture of possible schemes.

Based on population density, availability of data and the depth of the hot rocks, 45 local authorities emerge with the greatest potential. The list ranges from Lewes and Horsham in the south to Carlisle and Harrogate in the north.

Mullan noted that many of the locations overlap heavily with areas identified as in most need of levelling up, including Bassetlaw, Redcar, Cleveland and Hartlepool. Almost half of the places on the list are among the top 100 locations earmarked for the government's levelling-up fund. He thinks the economic opportunities offered by exploiting geothermal energy in those areas could win a new group of people over to efforts to reach net zero. "Politically, these are populations that are perhaps least persuaded about going green and the climate change agenda, they are Red Wall-type places where they're not seeing investment. So this is a political opportunity as well," he said.

Hidden depths



The researchers at the University of Durham also found that a geothermal industry will not get under way without some form of new financial incentive from the government, akin to the "feed-in tariffs" offered in Germany.

The report was commissioned by Johnson in 2021. Sunak said: "The findings on how developing this technology overlaps with opportunities to level up really add to our understanding of the possible benefits." He said that the energy secretary, Grant Shapps, would look closely at the results.

Mullan is under no illusion that the technology is a panacea for decarbonising heating in Britain, where about 85 per cent of homes are warmed with gas boilers. Beyond drilling and building geothermal schemes in the first place, new pipes will need to be built to carry the heat to homes, with heat exchangers fitted in houses and flats.

Airbnb host violently evicted guest she thought was sex worker

Mario Ledwith

An Airbnb host attacked a guest while evicting her from the property after wrongly assuming she was a sex worker.

Lyndsey McCabe, 46, shouted "I know what you are" at Jane Dillon as she threw her out of her home, which she believed was going to be used for paid sexual services. The holistic therapist slapped and kicked her guest before smashing her car windscreen as Dillon tried to flee. McCabe shouted at her victim: "Get out of my house. I know what you are, you are a sex worker."

The owner of the property in Dodleston, near Chester, admitted assault and criminal damage at Chester magistrates' court and was given a 12-month community order with 20 rehabilitation activity days and 150 hours of unpaid work. She was ordered to pay £335 compensation to Dillon for the damage caused and £165 for "psychological and physical distress".

Dillon, who runs a party planning business as well as working as a model and actress, had booked into McCabe's spare bedroom for one night in January.

After retiring to her bedroom, Dillon soon became perturbed by the slamming of the property's front door. Alan Currums, for the prosecution, said that McCabe then barged into the room, shouting aggressively. The Airbnb host proceeded to slap Dillon's hands three times while shouting at her to get out of the property. Dillon phoned 999 and asked for police to attend as McCabe continued to hit her arms and legs.

Following her outside, the host then picked up a rock and hurled it at the car's windscreen, shattering it, before adopting a "fighting stance". She was arrested when police arrived. The court was told that McCabe had convictions for assault from 2016, and for a racially aggravated public order offence from 2018.

Selina Woodward, in mitigation, said that McCabe had attended counselling for past trauma and "realised that it was not acceptable behaviour". The property is no longer listed on Airbnb.

French fight boom in Airbnb, page 31

JONATHAN FERREY/GETTY IMAGES; SOTHEBY'S

Sale offers peek into Newman's marriage

'Money won is twice as sweet as money earned," Paul Newman famously said in his role as the pool hustler "Fast Eddie" Felson (Keiran Southern writes).

The children of the late Hollywood great may not care about the distinction, however, as they prepare for a bittersweet auction of their parents' estate that is set to make millions of dollars over the next two weeks.

Memorabilia from Newman's 50-year marriage to the actress Joanne Woodward are going on sale in New York. Rare watches and props from beloved films are among more than 300 items due to go under the hammer.

One is a brass bed frame from the "f* hut" at their home in Connecticut, detailed in Newman's posthumous 2022 memoir.**

Sotheby's has been working on the sale for years with Newman's five daughters, who will share the proceeds. Interest has been so great that some items have been offered earlier than planned.

Newman died aged 83 in 2008 and Woodward, who at 93 is the oldest living winner of a best actress Oscar, has kept out of the public eye since her Alzheimer's diagnosis in 2007.

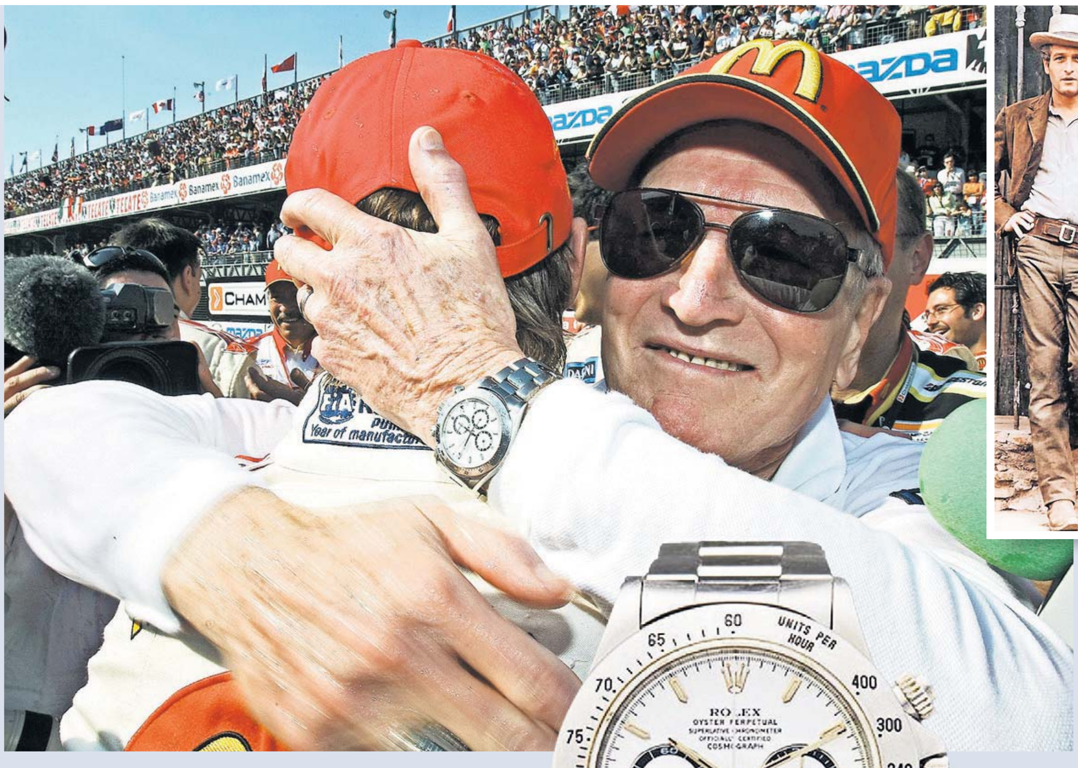
Newman was famous for his watches and in 2017 his Rolex Daytona sold at auction for $17.8 million. While it is unlikely that price will be exceeded during a series of Sotheby's sales this month, auctioneers expect two other timepieces to fetch a hefty price: a silver Rolex Zenith Daytona has a pre-auction estimate of $500,000-$1 million, as does another Rolex, a gift from his wife, inscribed with the words "Drive Very Slowly Joanne".

Items from Newman's Hollywood career are also on offer. Shackles from *Cool Hand Luke,* the 1967 prison drama that is perhaps his most famous film, have a current bid of $11,000, already more than double the pre-auction estimate. Nell Newman, the couple's eldest daughter, said the shackles used to hang on the wall and she and her siblings would play with them.

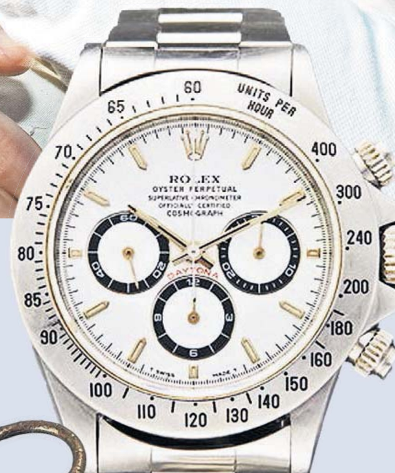
A pool cue from the 1986 movie *The Color of Money*, the follow-up to 1961's *The Hustler*, in which Newman reprised his role as Felson, has already attracted a bid of more than $3,000. A pair of prop boots from the 1969 western *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* may prove a bargain, with a pre-auction estimate of $700-$1,000.

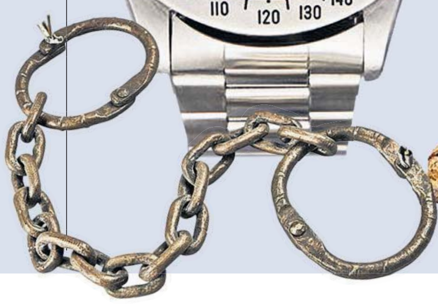
Nell told the NBC Today show this week that it was difficult to part with the items. "It's an emotional moment," she said. "But you know, my family really felt that it was time to share some of these belongings with the public."

Some of the couple's treasures will not be sold, however. While both won Oscars — Woodward for 1957's *The Three Faces of Eve* and Newman for *The Color of Money* — the statuettes are not listed.











Paul Newman sports a favourite watch, a Rolex Zenith Daytona likely to fetch up to $1 million. Items for sale include his boots from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, in which he starred with Robert Redford, above

Stolen gothic art reappears 43 years on

Jack Blackburn

November 13, 1979 was a dark day for York Art Gallery — that was when one of its much-prized pair of gothic panels was stolen. Nothing was left save for a black-and-white photograph.

More than 40 years on, however, it is to be returned after being spotted by an eagle-eyed auctioneer.

The panel, which dates back to 1480 and depicts a number of European saints, was produced by the Nuremberg School and is worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

"We are delighted that this piece has been found and returned to York Art Gallery," said Morgan Feely, the gallery's curator. "The theft may have been over 40 years ago but it is an important part of our collection and it is fantastic that this panel can be reunited with its pair."

The panel reappeared in November, when it was put up for sale at Duke's Auctioneers of Dorchester, in Dorset, and one of the firm's partners spotted something unusual about it.

The panel was withdrawn from sale while the auctioneers consulted the Art Loss Register, an international database. Further examination demonstrated that it was indeed the work which had vanished from York decades ago.

The vendor had inherited the piece from a relative, blissful unaware that it had been stolen. They have declared themselves happy that it is being returned to its "rightful home".

The 500-year-old painting will go back on display after beings submitted to checks by conservationists.

"We are delighted to have helped ensure this beautiful 15th-century gold-ground painting returns to its rightful home," said Guy Schwinge, a partner at Duke's.

"Over the years we have helped the Art Loss Register on numerous occasions and we are extremely proud of our association with them."



The panel, which shows three saints, St Nicholas of Bari, St James of Tarentaise and St Germanus of Paris, was stolen from York Art Gallery in 1979 and thought lost for ever until it was put up for sale and spotted by an auctioneer

The Art Loss Register was established in 1990 and operates internationally to recover stolen art. It also restores to its rightful owners artworks that were stolen by the Nazis, as well as dealing with the "repatriation of cultural property".

By coincidence, the panel carried sentimental value for those at the register charged with identifying it. "Three members of the Art Loss Register team studied at the University of York at one point or another, so we have fond memories of the gallery's collection and the wider city," said Lucy O'Meara, the register's recoveries specialist. "It was a pleasure assisting in this case on a pro-bono basis."

The double-sided gold-ground panel — a term for any artwork with a gold leaf background — measures 10 inches by 19 inches and was donated, along with its pair, to the York Art Gallery in 1955 by the philanthropist and collector FD Lycett Green.

The stolen panel depicts St Nicholas of Bari, St James of Tarentaise and St Germanus of Paris, with St Lawrence, St Sebald of Nuremburg and the Angel Gabriel on the reverse.

While the criminals behind the 1979 heist have never been found, the gallery has been the target of several robberies.

In 1999, staff were tied up by a gang of armed robbers who made off with 20 paintings worth more than £700,000, including a watercolour by JMW Turner. Craig Townend, the mastermind of the heist, was jailed for 15 years.

York Art Gallery will be hosting Claude Monet's *The Water-Lily Pond* from May 2024 as part of the National Gallery's National Treasures display to celebrate its 200th anniversary.

'Biased' police lie detector tests to be regulated

Ian Weinfass
Fiona Hamilton Crime Editor

National standards on lie detector tests are to be brought in amid concerns that police polygraphs are subjective and "throw up different results" depending on the user.

The College of Policing, which sets standards for police in England and Wales, will establish a training centre after a huge increase in the use of polygraphs. The equipment monitors sweat, heart rate and blood pressure as a subject is asked questions. Strong physiological changes are said to indicate dishonesty.

Polygraph evidence is not permitted in trials due to concerns about the reliability of the tests. However, it has been used by the probation service and police since 2014 as part of the monitoring of convicted sex offenders. In recent years polygraphs have also been used to gauge the level of risk posed by those released on licence after a conviction for domestic abuse or terrorism. Offenders cannot be sent back to prison for failing a test but can be jailed for refusing to take one.

Michelle Skeer, the chief constable of Cumbria, the national police lead for tackling sexual and violent offenders, proposed the creation of a national centre at a meeting of senior colleagues.

A paper she presented at the meeting, seen by The Times, said a "significant number of forces" had used polygraphs for several years but that without common standards there was concern inconsistent use could undermine the tool.

"The growing number of police polygraph examiners, the widening of contexts in which it is used, and the current inadequate provision of training suggests a national response is required [to] mitigate risks," she said.

Critics say that while polygraph equipment can accurately measure some physiological activities, these cannot prove dishonesty and are not consistent among those being tested. Methods to beat the tests can also be learnt.

Martyn Underhill, a former detective and police and crime commissioner, said that increased police use of polygraphs was a "worrying trend". He said they were subjective and threw up different results, depending on the operator. They could also be interpreted differently and there were concerns about bias in relation to members of the black and ethnic minority community. Standardisation was crucial, he added.

Dr Marion Oswald, associate professor of law at Northumbria University, who researches technology in criminal justice, opposes the use of polygraph tests by police, saying there is "a real risk that we're overrelying on a technology that has very serious concerns around its scientific basis".

"Use of the polygraph is very opaque — although there are standards, they're set by the polygraph industry themselves, not an independent standards body," she added.

"It's really being used as an interrogation device and not overseen in the way we would oversee other forms of interviewing that are used in the criminal justice system."



IMAGEPLOTTER/ALAMY



Going global Abdalla Almulla's installation, And Beyond, is Dubai's entry in the London Design Biennale at London's Somerset House, on show until June 25

Zapping the brain during sleep improves memory

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

Targeting patients' brains with electrical pulses while they slept improved their memory, a study has found.

The researchers believe that their technique could one day be used to help patients with memory disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease.

The findings support the dominant theory that two parts of the brain "talk" to each other for memories to be consolidated overnight.

The research involved 18 epilepsy patients who were being treated at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Electrodes had already been surgically implanted in their brains to help identify the source of seizures.

The experiment took place over two nights and mornings. Just before bedtime, the subjects were shown pairs of photographs of animals and 25 easily identifiable celebrities, including Marilyn Monroe and Jack Nicholson. They were immediately tested on the pairings, then again after a night of sleep.

On another night, they were shown 25 new pairings. This time certain parts of their brains received electrical stimulation, via their implants, overnight. They were then tested again in the morning.

The researchers tracked the activity of the hippocampus, the brain's memory hub. When patients fell into deep rest associated with memory consolidation, known as non-rapid eye movement sleep, they delivered gentle 50-millisecond electrical pulses to the cerebral cortex, which forms the outer layer of the brain. This was designed to coax two brain regions to fire in sync.

Participants performed better after the electrical stimulation, by about 10 per cent on average — but when the pulses were not timed with the activity of the hippocampus, there was no improvement. "We found we basically enhanced this highway by which information flows to more permanent storage places in the brain," said the UCLA professor Itzhak Fried, who oversaw the research. The findings were published in the journal Nature Neuroscience.

Maitlis: BBC ruins interviews by jumping to the weather

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Former *Newsnight* presenter Emily Maitlis has criticised the BBC for cutting short interviews in favour of weather bulletins.

Maitlis, who announced her departure from the corporation after 20 years in February last year, said that in an era in which so much listening takes place on demand, she is increasingly frustrated with interviews being squeezed due to "ridiculous time constraints". She cited the particularly irritating requirement for presenters to cut guests off to introduce the weather forecast.

"I am left thinking 'Why would you do that?'" she said. "I don't need you to squeeze that interview into three minutes to get to a weather slot. If I'm listening to something an hour later than it was broadcast, then I'd much prefer to have a fuller, proper conversation where the guest doesn't sound harried, slightly angry, cut off and squeezed to get to an imaginary deadline that doesn't actually exist for most people."

She hinted that some guests leave BBC radio interviews feeling "disgruntled or short-changed" while they have time to talk for as long as they want on her Global podcast *The News Agents*.

Maitlis also took aim at many of the dated production techniques employed in television news interviews, dismissing many reports as "wallpaper" that fail to add any value to viewers. "I want my licence fee to go on brilliant stories from Orla Guerin reporting from Sudan, or an earthquake, but I don't need to see another shot of Big Ben, the High Court or someone walking through their office," she said.

"We've accepted a norm in how television news is done for 50 or 60 years and I'm not sure how sustainable that is. We need to rip the whole thing up and start again."

Maitlis indicated that the BBC was "reluctant" fully to exploit *Newsnight's* Prince Andrew interview in part for fear of potentially putting off future guests. "We were terribly nervous of getting the tone wrong, both in the interview and afterwards. There was stuff that immediately became comedy gold but we didn't want to be part of that. We felt like we had to treat the whole thing respectfully, which was behind our reticence to turn it into something bigger," she said.

Maitlis added that she felt able to return to the interview only after leaving the BBC, when she became executive producer of the Channel 4 documentary *Andrew: The Problem Prince*.

"Whilst I was at the BBC, we didn't really want to touch the Prince Andrew interview, we felt it had made its mark and had spoken for itself," she said.

In her MacTaggart lecture last year, Maitlis accused the BBC of tying itself up in knots in its efforts to be impartial. Asked if she felt "vindicated" by outgoing chairman Richard Sharp's resignation in April, Maitlis said that questions remain around "cronyism".



Emily Maitlis thinks some BBC guests feel "short-changed"

STEVE THORNE/GETTY IMAGES



"I will not be cancelled!" Roger Waters told fans in Birmingham, saying he'd been victimised for his pro-Palestinian stance

If you ignore the rants, this was majestic

Pop Mark Beaumont

Roger Waters
Utilita Arena, Birmingham
★★★★★

At a booze-laden piano representing an onstage speakeasy, Roger Waters's wall collapsed once more. "I will not be cancelled!" he yelled early in the first UK show of his farewell tour, "pissed off" at "the antisemitism bullshit" dogging him across Europe, accusing this and other broadsheets of conspiring against him and, later, attacking Christian Wakeford MP ("wanker!") for what he told parliament about the show's contents.

"I'm dying here," he admitted, raving that his victimisation was due to his pro-Palestinian stance: "It all comes from Tel Aviv," he alleged, the old Pink paranoia poking through.

Putting that alarming rant aside, Twitter's hunger for condemnation has overshadowed much context here. Combined with his inclusion of Anne Frank among a broad catalogue of victims of authoritarian violence, a flimsy furore exploded around Waters's depiction of a far-right demagogue drenched in neo-Nazi regalia during *In the Flesh*. Any Floyd-head knew it's been an anti-fascist set piece since the 1980's *The Wall* tour — you might as well cancel Herr Flick — but a police investigation for "incitement of the people" and attempted gig bans in Germany gave the tour a dark and politicised tang befitting the production itself.

Waters was going out tubthumping. Beneath floating screens blasting tempestuous slogans and hard-hitting imagery — bombed cityscapes, bloodthirsty militiamen, footage of US war crimes in Iraq — he delivered chunks from Pink Floyd's 1970s peak, selected for their unflinching insights into oppression and control. The lest-we-forget neo-Nuremberg segment — performed sans dictator outfit but with flying war-pig — was the second from their masterwork of grand-scale paranoia *The Wall*; Waters had opened with a narcotic reworking of *Comfortably Numb* before *Another Brick in the Wall, Part 2* was repurposed as a lesson in western government narrative control.

A full, glorious side two of 1973's *The Dark Side of the Moon* was a reminder that Waters has been howling about war, greed and inequality for 50 years. And sporadic solo cuts proved he'd only grown more polemical with age, confronting death-decreeing presidents, drone warfare and police brutality.

It was a barrage designed to shock and overwhelm yet Waters returned to the piano for a heartbreaking reprise of *The Bar*, detailing the death of his father when Waters was a baby. Thus a performer often buried in spectacle signed off with a viscerally humanitarian show of majestic music, unbending ideals and gut-wrenching emotion. It would be a travesty to reduce it to a Twitterstorm.

UK tour continues to June 10



Record numbers of state pupils apply to Oxford

Peter Chappell

Private school applications to Oxford have plummeted to their lowest level in decades while state school applications have hit a record high.

The number of private school pupils applying to the country's oldest university dropped 6 per cent from the year before to 3,855, the lowest number since 2001. Applicants from state schools last year rose to 9,965, up 4 per cent on the year before, according to admissions statistics released by the university.

Since 2010, state school applications to Oxford have risen by almost a third, while private school applicants have dropped by a similar proportion.

Oxford and Cambridge have been successful in broadening their intake of students from under-represented backgrounds in recent years, leaving head teachers of the country's leading private schools advising some of their students to opt for American universities instead. In 2022, Eton College sent about a fifth of its leavers — more than 50 pupils in total — to universities in the US.

Since 2017, the success rate for private schools securing an offer from Oxford has fallen from about 29 per cent to 20 per cent. Private school pupils admitted in 2022 accounted for 31.9 per cent of UK undergraduates, up marginally from 31.8 per cent in the previous year but down from 41.8 per cent in 2017.

Oxford and Cambridge now put students' academic achievements in the context of their social and economic background, and identify the potential of disadvantaged pupils.

The offer rate for private school pupils varies across Oxford colleges. Worcester College has seen its offer rate for independent school pupils halve since 2017, declining from about 18 per cent to 8 per cent. Five colleges have seen it decline by at least a third, including Keble, St Hilda's, St Anne's, Exeter and Magdalen. Private school offer rates are still higher for 19 of 29 colleges at the university, but this is down from 24 in 2017. University College was the only college to see private school offers overtake state school offers over the period, as they rose from 26.2 per cent to 28.7 per cent.

A spokesman for the Independent Schools Council told *The Daily Telegraph*: "While Oxford applications have declined over the past few years, we have seen a rise in the number of independent school students applying to Cambridge. There will also be other factors at play here, including small but increasing numbers of students opting to study abroad. Using school type as a determiner of advantage is a blunt instrument."

A spokesman for Oxford University said: "In 2022, almost 24,000 applications for undergraduate study were made, and we welcomed more than 3,000 students who successfully demonstrated their academic potential through one of the most competitive application processes in the world. Over the past five years, students from a wider range of backgrounds than ever have joined the university."

The university insisted that "everyone at Oxford is chosen based on academic potential and ability alone".

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Island victim of lightning 'not reckless'

Anthee Carassava Athens
David Brown

The parents of a British paddleboarder killed by lightning on a Greek island have denied he was acting recklessly.

Scott Seddon, 26, a civil engineering graduate from Liverpool, was reported to have ignored pleas from a friend to come ashore during a storm on the island of Rhodes on Monday.

However, a video released by his parents, who have a house on the island, shows Seddon shortly before the incident occurred on Agia Agathi beach. Local reports claimed that a friend, Anna Vidamour, 24, had called for Seddon to come ashore before he was hit, with Wander Machado, 47, a former footballer originally from Brazil, swimming out to rescue him.

Seddon's mother, Jackie, 56, told MailOnline: "When Scott fell, he fell into the water. He was too heavy for Anna to lift so a Brazilian man came to help." She added: "My son went out having the time of his life, and God just decided to take him."

The Foreign Office said: "We are supporting the family of a British man who has died in Rhodes and are in contact with the local authorities."

Police pursuit pair died from head injuries

Two teenage boys died from head injuries when they fell off an electric motorcycle after being chased by police, an inquest was told yesterday.

Kyrees Sullivan, 16, and Harvey Evans, 15, died when they fell from the £4,000 Sur-Ron motorcycle having been previously followed by a police van. The boys' deaths led to rioting on the streets of Ely, Cardiff, as more than 150 youths set fire to cars and clashed with police.

Family members say the electric motorcycle was an early present to Harvey before his 16th birthday.

At the opening of the inquest at Pontypridd coroner's court, the usher, Lynne Carroll, said the best friends were seen riding on one motorcycle on May 22 and "a short time later were both found by a member of the public on the road, having come off the bike".

The pathologist, Dr Stephen Leadbeatter, said the provisional causes of death were blunt head injury for Kyrees and blunt injury to head and trunk for Harvey. The coroner, Patricia Morgan, said an inquest was required because there was "reason to suspect the deaths were violent or unnatural".

The inquest was adjourned while an investigation into the boys' deaths is carried out.

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Beware politicians who meddle with pensions

Retirement funds need a shake-up but coercing them into the search for economic growth is asking for trouble

James Kirkup



Public money is tight, economic growth is lacklustre and a general election is coming.

Naturally, politicians are looking for a new magic money tree whose fruits they can turn into jam tomorrow. Unsurprisingly, given their similarities, Jeremy Hunt and Rachel Reeves have identified the same tree for picking: pension funds.

This new political focus might, just, give us more growth and happier retirements, but it's also fraught with risk. Politicians tempted to pressure pension funds into investing our money in different ways and places should tread very carefully, not least because they will be long gone before the consequences of their choices are felt.

At issue here are the bodies that hold more than £2.5 trillion worth of assets, which must provide retirement incomes for millions of current and future pensioners. A growing number of people in politics want more of that money to be invested in British firms — to boost investment by those businesses, improve productivity and lift a London stock market that's short of exciting companies looking to raise capital by selling shares here.

For both Conservative and Labour economic thinkers, parts of the UK's pensions and insurance industry are culpably reluctant to invest in British start-ups. They complain that a sector which in the 1990s put half its assets into UK shares now allocates scarcely 2 per cent. Instead, UK pension money has gone overseas and into government bonds, which are (on days when Liz Truss isn't PM) a low-risk, low-return choice.

Unimpressed with Britain's staid, safe funds, the politicians look enviously at Australian "superfunds" and Canada's huge public sector funds, able to invest tens of billions into big things like airports that generate big returns over decades. You've probably flown from a British airport owned by some Canadian public sector pensioners (Bristol, say) but being Canadian they don't like to shout about it.

Both Hunt and Reeves are looking at ways to push pension funds into investing more in UK companies, including new ones that sometimes struggle to find the backing they need to grow. Reeves has expressed interest in proposals from the City of London Corporation for a £50 billion "future growth fund" into which some pension funds would be obliged to invest 5 per cent of their

> UK pension money has gone overseas and into government bonds

assets. Hunt hasn't quite gone that far, but his Treasury officials are looking at driving more pension money into UK plc. Expect headlines on this next month around his Mansion House speech.

I should be delighted by all this. I'm an amateur pensions nerd (like a bitter rock aficionado resentful of newcomers at concerts, I was a fan of Canadian public pension funds before they were famous) and I've spent years trying to persuade people at Westminster to pay more attention to a subject most political types find technical and slow-moving.

Yet I worry that political enthusiasm for "unleashing" pension capital to support British companies and infrastructure overlooks one big problem: that's not what it's for. Pension funds do not exist to further economic policy or industrial policy or any other sort of policy. They exist to fund the pensions of their members. Any thing that subordinates this long-term purpose to the wishes of politicians seeking short-term popularity is asking for trouble.

Happily, as long as they stop short of actually telling funds where and how to invest, there is a still much good that Westminster's newfound pension fans can do. Encouraging smaller funds to merge and create bigger ones is worthwhile. This is especially true of the messy local government pension landscape, where too many organisations are paying out too much in fees. We should learn from the Canadians here.

For the private sector, Laura Trott, the smart young pensions minister, has spoken about the need for new "collective defined contribution" schemes that could better serve younger savers by favouring higher-risk, higher-return investments over decades. Yet reform is slow because the machinery of pensions policy is complex and diffuse. Regulations proliferate. Trott's office is in the work and pensions department, yet the Treasury retains most of the power via tax and financial regulation.

If it wants to get more money into shares and start-ups, the Treasury should provide incentives, not instructions. In 1997, Gordon Brown abolished pension funds' tax relief on dividend income, costing funds hundreds of billions and hastening the closure of many final salary schemes. Reversing that tax grab



Laura Trott, the pensions minister, is looking for ways to help young savers

would be a good way to urge pensions back to the stock market.

Other savings rules should change too. Isa limits are the same for cash savings (a ruinous choice when inflation is high) as for investments in shares. Why not tip that balance away from unproductive cash holdings?

Yet the biggest and simplest thing politicians can do on pensions is also the hardest: tell people the truth. We're just not saving enough money for retirement. The typical worker saves 5 per cent of their salary into a pension and gets 3 per cent from their employer. The DWP's own calculations suggest more than 12 million people — almost 40 per cent of the workforce — aren't saving enough to deliver a comfortable retirement.

Seeking higher returns on pension savings, including by allowing some schemes to take more risks on UK investments, is sensible but insufficient. We need more money flowing into pensions.

Trott has made a good start by including younger workers in auto-enrolment pensions and lowering the starting threshold for workplace pension contributions. But there is much further to go to put Britons on track for adequate retirements.

> Tell people the truth: we're just not putting enough earnings aside

Hunt and Reeves, both serious public servants, are adding pensions to the list of areas where they quietly concur. They should go further and agree that whoever is in power after the next election will start raising pension contribution rates. The authors of that policy would leave office long before today's workers reached retirement and felt the benefit. Who wants to make today's voters worse off so they can be richer in four or five elections' time?

But one day Hunt and Reeves will themselves be retired and looking back on their time in politics and their place in history. Would you rather be remembered for cutting down today's money tree, or planting new ones for tomorrow?

James Kirkup is director of the Social Market Foundation

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Don't kill the death tax, it's good for most of us

Axing the levy on inheritance would increase inequality and encourage people to drop out

Emma Duncan



I once knew a man whose job was to look after "high net worth individuals" for Goldman Sachs. Were they, I asked him hopefully, all miserable as sin? No, he said: they fell into three categories. There were those who had built a widget factory and kept working on the widgets. They were active, engaged and cheerful. There were those who sold their widget factory and used the proceeds to sail ceaselessly round the Caribbean. They were bored and miserable. And there were the families who had inherited money. They were miserable too, because they fought like rats in a sack.

The inheritance of lots of money used to be confined largely to the pages of 19th-century novels, where it serves as a useful driver of plot. From whom are Pip's *Great Expectations* to come? How are *Sense and Sensibility*'s Dashwoods to remain genteel now their uncle's will has impoverished them?

In the past 15 years, though, wealth has doubled as a proportion of national income, and inheritance is a big deal once more. Although only 4 per cent of estates attract the tax, one person in twenty-five expects to inherit an estate of more than £1 million. And inheritance is reappearing in literature. In John Lanchester's novel *Capital*, a Londoner finds that "in the debit column, she had lost her mother; in the credit column, she now had a gigantic pile of cash".

The exchequer would take a few wheelbarrows full of that. Inheritance tax kicks in on estates of over £325,000, at a rate of 40 per cent. Fifty-five Tory MPs want this "death tax" abolished. Nadhim Zahawi reckons it is "morally wrong" to take someone's assets on their death. (As the man whose convoluted financial relationship with his father was at the centre of an HMRC investigation into his tax affairs, he may not be the best front-man for a campaign on intergenerational wealth transfers.)

There certainly is an element of unfairness, in the form of double taxation: if people are passing on money they have earned, it has already been taxed. But the rise in

> Rise in value of estates is not due to hard work but property prices

the value of estates is largely due not to years of hard work but to the rise in property prices.

Zahawi also claims the tax creates "all sorts of inefficient and damaging distortions". This does not stand much scrutiny, either. All taxes distort behaviour. The best ones — sin taxes, carbon taxes — discourage bad behaviour, but they are small beer. In order to produce enough revenue, the government taxes activities which it should be encouraging, like earning, spending and moving house. So the issue is this: how powerful a disincentive is a tax to the activity in question. Inheritance tax, which takes effect after death, is likely to be less of a disincentive to earning than income tax, which hits people when they're alive. By that measure, it's not too bad a tax, and it raises for the exchequer a modest but not insignificant wedge — £7 billion a year, or one-twentieth of the cost of the NHS.

And if inheritance tax is unfair, inheritance itself is even more so. When I die, my children will use the proceeds from my house to buy their own or, if they already have one (probably because I've been able to borrow against my house to lend them money for the deposit), they can use the cash to buy a nicer one or to supplement their pension. The third of people who don't own a house won't be able to give their children this leg-up.

Nor would the benefits from abolishing the tax go largely to the middle classes who have salted away a few bob. According to the Resolution Foundation, 70 per cent of the benefits would go to people with estates of over £1 million; 40 per cent to those with estates of over £2 million. It would also exacerbate regional inequalities: about half of the benefits would go to people in London and the southeast.

I don't think abolishing inheritance tax would do much good to the supposed beneficiaries, either. Aside from the conflict that money is apt to generate within families, the impact of a large inheritance is variable. For a few, it's a tremendous liberation. Virginia Woolf, who as a young woman was too poor to devote herself to her novels, wrote of the "fear and bitterness" engendered by "the thought of that one gift which it was death to hide — a small one, but dear to the possessor — perishing, and with it my self, my soul". Then an aunt fell off her horse and Woolf could afford the "room of one's own" which allowed her to write.

I've known people who have used inherited money usefully, to fund their creativity or to make the world a better place. They are the unusual ones. More commonly, lacking the

> Those who come into lots of dosh subside into a dull dependency on it

prick of financial need that gets most of us out of bed on a Monday morning, those who have inherited lots of dosh subside into a dull dependency on it.

The data backs this up. An American study showed that receiving a large inheritance tends to decrease people's earnings and increase the chance that they will drop out of the labour force.

Andrew Carnegie, the poor Scot who minted it in 19th-century America, got it right: "The parent who leaves his son enormous wealth generally deadens the talents and energies of the son, and tempts him to lead a less useful and less worthy life than he otherwise would."

So in the interests of the rich and of the rest of us, the death tax should stay.

Martin Samuel Notebook

Trusting a dodgy cap'n nearly left us all at sea

The story of Jody Oliver, who masqueraded as the captain of a liner offering cut-price holidays, diddling prospective clients out of £270,000, reminded me of an important life lesson: be careful who you go to sea with.

In Sardinia a few years back we were offered a boat trip around the coves. It looked lovely. Good food, good wine, glorious views, swimming. A few from the hotel signed up. A couple of young French girls, a Uruguayan gentleman who turned out to be the fitness coach for Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning team, a very urbane Brazilian couple working as diplomats in Paris. Quite the international jet set.

Our captain seemed a jolly type too. We pulled into harbour beside a big, touristy vessel, people packed inside, sweltering, enviously eyeing our on-deck spread of champagne, salamis and cheese. Our captain made a big play of it, too. Winding up the other skipper and his passengers, making a big show of our bijou luxury. And off we went.

About an hour later, I saw this thing heading towards us at speed across the waves. Gunmetal grey, a blue light flashing on top. As it drew nearer we could make out its lettering. Guardia di Finanza. That's not good, in any language.

Turns out some people can't take a joke. Suddenly, our host's mood changed. He began issuing hurried instructions: we were all old friends; nobody had paid for this trip; just mates together, no more. There was one flaw in this plan. Obviously, the clientele were, as described, cultured citizens of the world, fluent in many languages. Then there was me and Deb. The minute the police spoke to us in Italian we were going to give them the look of a dog that's just been shown a card trick and blow everybody's cover.

The boat pulled alongside. We bobbed together for a while as our flustered captain answered questions. Then the police started inviting the disparate couples on board for a chat. Fortunately, those urbane Brazilians did such a cracking job, we were all let go, our monoglot secret intact. It was a rather subdued return to shore, mind, although at least our man did have a boat. Jody Oliver, Cardiff crown court was told, possessed nothing more nautical than a second-hand P&O uniform, which he wore in pictures.



Sky dramas

Of course, you can always fly, although Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, must regret putting her boarding pass on social media for a recent trip to New York. It revealed her seat number as 3K, which is business class on British Airways. Cue outrage about Labour hypocrisy, branding the government out of touch while swanning about in the posh seats.

Yet how is she supposed to travel? She's quite probably the chancellor in the next government and was attending the Harvard Club for dinner in a trip to demonstrate how Labour could "restore economic dignity". And she should arrive in the style of a backpacker, via the middle seat in row 42, clothes like a failed origami project, plane sweat oozing from every pore?

If you want a real scandal in the skies, it is reported that the backbench MP Boris Johnson has burned through almost £50,000 in VIP lounge hospitality at Heathrow since August. To be fair, though, Johnson has always been very big on restoring economic dignity. Mainly for himself.

Missed connection

Letting the train take the strain may also be getting harder with the Department for Transport pushing operators to stop offering free wi-fi as a way of cutting costs. Railfuture, a campaign group, said it would make rail travel less attractive, while the railway historian Christian Wolmar called it "a ridiculous measure".

Meh. Wi-fi on trains rarely works anyway. What does get through, with annoying regularity, is that if we see something that doesn't look right, they'll sort it. Considering they can't seem to get the automated seat reservation system activated whenever I travel, this is unlikely to greatly worry the lads at Isis.

Thunderer

Labour oil drilling ban would be too much, far too soon

David Whitehouse

Reports that Labour may end licensing for new UK oil and gas developments sent shockwaves through my industry this week. Britain's offshore sector employs 200,000 people, was among the first in the country to commit to net zero, and is critical to delivering it.

UK energy operators produce 40 per cent of our gas and 60 per cent of our oil. We have 24 million homes reliant on gas boilers and 76 per cent of our total energy comes from oil and gas. So North Sea supplies are essential to energy security.

An end to new investment would lead to oil and gas output falling 80 per cent by 2033, a decline too rapid to find low-carbon replacements. We would have to turn to imports.

Why are new oil and gas licences so important for UK production? The answer lies in the geology of the North Sea. The Brent field has produced three billion barrels of oil since 1975 while the Forties field has produced 2.6 billion barrels since the 1970s, with 20 years more life. Their output is, however, declining, so the

> The huge fall in output would mean we'd have to turn to imports

focus is on the many smaller fields in the North Sea, Celtic Sea and eastern Atlantic, with shorter lives. The UK has 283 active oil and gas fields but 180 will shut down by 2030. So we need to find new ones.

This "churn", the constant replacement of dying fields with newer ones, is crucial. In the past five years 12 new gas fields were opened and provide 30 per cent of our gas. Without them the Ukraine crisis would have forced Britain to source more liquefied natural gas from overseas. The climate change committee has said Britain will need 16 billion barrels-worth of oil and gas between now and 2050.

Finding new oil and gas fields is expensive and risky, but the UK always attracted investors because of its political and fiscal stability. That no longer applies. Windfall taxes plus political uncertainty over licensing means 90 per cent of UK energy producers are cutting investment.

I would ask Sir Keir Starmer, Ed Miliband and other policymakers to reflect — and to talk to us. Parliament may thrive on opposition and argument, but big engineering projects only succeed through collaboration. The transition to net zero will be the biggest engineering project this country has ever seen. It will fail if politicians undermine the industries, workforces and communities whose skills will be vital for building our energy future.

David Whitehouse is chief executive of Offshore Energies UK



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It could be a Kennedy who topples Biden

He may not win the White House, but RFK Jr's candidacy offers a focus for Democrat discontent with the president

Gerard Baker



@GERARDTBAKER

In a country in which the politically unimaginable has become routine, perhaps it isn't a surprise that the latest name to emerge in the front ranks of presidential contenders is that of a Kennedy. Sixty-three years after his uncle was elected president, 55 years after his father's campaign for the top job ended in an assassin's bullet, and 43 years since another uncle's bid did irreversible damage to Jimmy Carter's hopes for re-election, Robert F Kennedy Jr is, implausibly, reviving the political fortunes of the most famous name in Democratic politics.

A man who has spent a career on the fringes of political life, as an environmental lawyer famous mostly for peddling pseudoscience about the dangers of vaccines, is suddenly centre stage, riding a wave of favourable media coverage and registering polling numbers that, while not suggesting he should be readying rolls of wallpaper for the White House, certainly indicate he is much more than a wild-eyed long shot.

Since he announced his bid for president last month, challenging President Biden for the Democratic nomination, Kennedy has surprised party leaders with his rising appeal. A poll last week for CNN put him at 20 per cent among Democratic primary voters, with Biden well ahead at 60 per cent. But that level of support for a complete outsider against a party leader with all the benefits of incumbency is startling — and alarming to leading Democrats.

Another poll for Echelon Insights indicated that Americans have a more positive opinion of Kennedy than of Biden: 44 per cent said they view him favourably, ahead of the 40 per cent saying the same about Biden; 22 per cent view him unfavourably, against 58 per cent for the president.

> A man best known for peddling pseudoscience is suddenly centre stage

Every president who has faced a challenge of any significance from within his own party in the past 60 years has either been forced to stand down or gone on to lose the ensuing general election: Lyndon Johnson in 1968, Carter, at the expense of Teddy Kennedy in 1980, George HW Bush with Patrick Buchanan in 1992.

It's possible that voters' confidence in the ageing Biden is now so low that a sock puppet looking vaguely youthful and at least conscious could mount a serious challenge to the president. But it's also possible that Kennedy is tapping into something seismic in America's shifting political geology.

His relative success is another indication of the continuing, and bipartisan, appeal of populist politics: in his stump speeches and media appearances he hammers a relentless message, slamming overweening government, powerful corporations, a foreign policy he says is characterised by endless warfare and an environment of encroaching authoritarianism and censorship.

When I sat down with him this week in New York, between campaign stops in San Diego on the west coast and Philadelphia in the east, RFK Junior was in combative mood. Fit and trim at 69, equipped with the distinctive Kennedy good looks and a raspy voice that recalls a million famous family speeches, he seems happy to play the Democratic rebel with a cause. Most of the Kennedy clan, who are close to Biden, have disowned his campaign and have distanced themselves from some of his more outlandish positions.

He has become best known in the past 20 years for his denunciation of vaccines, and for associating himself with what can only be described as dangerous quackery, especially over the MMR vaccine and the claim that it causes autism in children. He is unrepentant when we speak, saying vaccines "are producing a tsunami of chronic diseases in our country". But he knows the issue resonating with voters is his staunch critique of the stringent Covid mandates during the pandemic, and it is difficult to disagree with him as he describes the immeasurable damage they have done to the economy, mental health,

> It is possible he taps into something seismic in the political geology

education, and the fragile cohesion of the United States.

"It's not a partisan issue," he tells me. "President Trump implemented [lockdowns]. It cost sixteen trillion dollars to our country. It shifted a trillion dollars in wealth from the middle class to the super-rich. It was an attack on the poorest people in our country. We created a billionaire a day during the pandemic… And American children lost 22 IQ points, a third of children require remedial education up through high school and some of them will never recover from what we did to them."

He also has a point when he condemns widening censorship by government and corporations in the name of crushing "misinformation."

Implicitly invoking the themes of his father's campaign in 1968, he is scathing about the power of big companies and wealthy Americans, and, like Bobby Kennedy Sr, is tapping into rising anti-war sentiment by opposing US aid to Ukraine, although it's a considerable stretch to say, as he does, that Kyiv is "in the middle of a proxy war between two great powers, neither of whom is fighting in the interest of Ukraine".

He insists his bid to dethrone Biden is nothing personal and that he wants to avoid an acrimonious battle. "I ran my uncle's [Teddy's] campaign in the southern states in 1980. And that was a very, very bitter campaign," he says. "And that bitterness I think percolated down to, you know, the people who supported him within the Democratic party…I've known President Biden. I've had a long friendship with them. I'm not going to make this a personal campaign, but I am going to talk about issues and that is good for our democracy."

Still, it seems plausible that while this latest bid by the member of America's most famous family won't end with another Kennedy in the White House, its main achievement will be, as it was in 1980, to oust a fellow Democrat from it.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Harnessing AI

Sir, Isaac Asimov's later books updated the three laws (letter, June 1) to include one stating that AIs must act primarily for the good of "humanity" even if that meant individual humans were put at risk. As an AI programmer and user for more than 30 years, including a stint on the government's long defunct 1980s Alvey programme, I would suggest that an AI is not useful unless it is more intelligent than an average human. To pass laws restricting an AI's learning ability would be like the old law that forced cars to be driven at 4mph with a man in front waving a red flag. This was soon abandoned, despite the increase in deaths and injuries caused by faster cars.
Paul Weighell
Purley, Croydon

Sir, AI, like many other human inventions such as the printing press, dynamite or nuclear power, is not inherently evil. We should embrace it for the immense good it can do, but regulate against misuse. AI could act as poacher and gamekeeper: AI should be able to detect lies of other AI, and should be open to questioning on the validity of its sources.
Professor Ric Parker
London, SW11

Sir, Surely a more likely outcome of the exponential development of AI is the extinction of the internet. If nothing can be believed any more and the risks of fraud are too high, people will revert to books and paper.
Stephen Trahair
Plymouth

Sir, The Holocaust, nuclear weapons, climate change, mass extinction: maybe AI will make a better fist of it than our own organic brand.
Simon Tiffin
Beaminster, Dorset

Addict sympathy

Sir, Richard Hill (letter, June 1) is correct to point out that A&Es need to be better resourced — not to "waste time" with drug users but rather to help them get the help they need to escape the life in which they have become trapped. It is no surprise to me that he notes they were often "shocked, grateful and apologetic" because in my experience those who use drugs and alcohol are nice people, too. They are also among the most stigmatised and vilified in society.
Dr Rachel Turner
GP specialising in addictions, Overton, Hants

Corrections and clarifications

ipso. Regulated

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Lack of charging points for electric vehicles

Sir, if the UK were to follow your call ("Electric Dreams", leading article, June 1) for a delay to the 2030 phase-out of petrol and diesel cars British drivers would be burdened with more expensive motoring. Slowing the transition would reduce the size of the second-hand car market for electric vehicles, leaving drivers on lower incomes having to pay more — upwards of £9 billion by 2043 — to continue running petrol vehicles. The phase-out date is helping to drive the investment in the charging infrastructure you say is needed, with the industry committed to spending £6 billon. To ditch the target would mean private investors taking their foot off the pedal.

With 72 per cent of UK drivers having access to off-street parking, most EV owners are not reliant on public chargers and with hybrids, containing a petrol engine, on sale until 2035, this call looks a little premature.
Colin Walker
Transport lead, Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit

Sir, Tearing up the UK's plans to switch to electric vehicles would undermine billions of pounds of investment that's going into the charging network, causing more problems for motorists. The 2030 target is no "cliff-edge"; replacing the UK's 33 million petrol and diesel cars with electric ones is a decades-long task. The charging network is not perfect, but this shouldn't hinder progress. When the Victorians built the railways, no one suggested waiting for every town and village to be connected before the first train ran. The reality is that most drivers will not depend on the network. They will charge at home, which is convenient and cheap.
Ben Nelmes
CEO, New AutoMotive

Sir, I wonder whether the problem is that we have selected the "wrong" electric car technology. It is likely to be decades before all those living in flats or without off-street parking will have guaranteed access to sockets. Maybe manufacturers should instead be encouraged to adopt common battery sizes and connectors so batteries can be swapped at electric "petrol" stations, much as batteries are swapped in endless other domestic appliances.
Chris Fife-Schaw
Farnborough, Hants

Sir, The provision of charging points could be quickly improved if the government persuaded oil companies to replace at least one petrol pump with a charger in medium and large filling stations. If they also installed solar panels on their canopies the capacity would be greatly enhanced.
Ian Rutter
Cookham Dean, Berks

Sir, As a Tesla driver for four years I am fully conversant with range anxiety on long journeys. However, for local motoring there is no comparison between the pleasure and efficiency of EVs over fossil fuel ones. The problem of chargers is down to lack of leadership by central government. Installation of charging points at sites of large employment should be made cost-effective. A weekly free charge for employees would reward environmentally aware drivers. The potential gains are huge.
John Orchard
Youlgrave, Derbs

Sir, Yesterday I passed a Tesla. Clearly the driver had range anxiety because he had a bicycle fixed to his roof rack.
Jack Cornforth
Loughborough, Leics

Honours reform

Sir, If one believes that experience and expertise should be the hallmarks of future membership of a reformed House of Lords ("Lords 'needs more experts and fewer silent voices' ", news, May 27) the logical way would be for the heads of our national professional organisations to part-provide this. It would bring in, for example, the impressive Minette Batters, president of the National Farmers Union, the presidents of the Law Society and Royal College of Surgeons, business, trade union, educational and cultural leaders, with the same automaticity which applies to former chiefs of the defence staff and cabinet secretaries, perhaps for a limited five-year term. There would have to be far fewer political appointments, plus a phasing-out of the hereditary bloc. All this could deliver a more relevant and respected upper house with hopefully greater regional representation.
Lord Lee of Trafford
House of Lords

Sir, Conferring knighthoods on High Court judges has long outlived its initial purpose (letter, June 1): ensuring independence from the Crown by removing the temptation for judges to side with the government in court in the hope they would be honoured. This ground collapsed when Mr Justice Heath refused a knighthood upon appointment in 1779, saying he would die as he lived, "plain John Heath". He would doubtless have been bemused by the persistence of the practice.
Paul Newman KC
Wilberforce Chambers, London

Mental health hope

Sir, Many readers will relate to Flic Everett's description of trying to address her life-long anxiety but finding "most tips don't work for long" (Times2, May 30). While many benefit from existing treatments, whether pharmacological or talking therapies, for a significant number they don't work well enough. There is a crucial role for researchers to work with those with lived experience of mental health problems to develop new and improved treatments. At Wellcome we are supporting scientists to do just that. There are many pathways that mental health science is starting to explore, from harnessing sleep and circadian rhythms to new digital tools. There is room for realistic hope; we are already seeing exciting scientific breakthroughs. I believe we are at the cusp of a step change in finding more effective personalised solutions for mental health problems.
Professor Miranda Wolpert
Director of mental health, Wellcome

Inquiry impasse

Sir, The legal impasse between the government and the Covid public inquiry (news, June 1) is as depressing as it is inevitable. Twenty years ago the government set a tight deadline of a year for the foot and mouth inquiry, of which I was secretary; a deadline we met. While the Covid inquiry is far more complex, the government could, and should, have set equally stretching deadlines for priority areas such as Covid in care homes. As it is, even interim recommendations appear to be years away. The only winners will be the costly lawyers employed by both sides. The losers will, once again, be bereaved families awaiting answers.
Alun Evans
London E11

THE PRINCE OF WALES IN YORKSHIRE

FROM THE TIMES JUNE 2, 1923

After five strenuous days, the Prince of Wales returned home yesterday from his Yorkshire tour. He went there, it will be remembered, immediately after visiting a very different part of England — namely, agricultural Wessex — and the contrast must have struck him forcibly. This is the first time, to all intents and purposes, that he has been in the great industrial cities of the county, of which, as he confessed in a characteristic speech at York, he knew comparatively little until this week, though he now feels bound to it "by close ties". That, we feel sure, is no formal phrase. To have been received everywhere and by all classes with enthusiastic good will, to be admitted into the workshops of craftsmen whose products in the most direct sense make England what it is — the bayonets of the West Yorkshire Regiments, the Prince recalled at Sheffield, were made of the best steel, and the men were of the same sort of stuff — to breathe the atmosphere of places where, if anywhere in the world, men and women not only think but also make, use their hands as well as their heads, supplying, or ready to supply, all humanity with materials from foundry and loom second to none in quality, is a great experience, even for one who has traversed so much of the world as the Prince.

Rotherham, Sheffield, Bradford, York, and Leeds should afford to the discerning eye scenes as worthy of study as any five cities that could be named. With the exception of York, with its Roman walls and superb Minster, none, perhaps, is visited for the motives that usually inspire tourists. But the air of each is stimulating. It is vain to ignore them on aesthetic grounds. They must be judged by other standards than would apply to cities of ancient peace and beauty. Their patriotism and their vitality are of more than local significance.

On their prosperity the economic position of England depends and according as political, social and industrial questions of the day are handled among them, the civilization of the future will take shape. The King knows industrial England thoroughly, and by going to Yorkshire the Prince cannot but have added greatly to his own knowledge.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Free to be wrong

Sir, Democracy demands and deserves debate ("Boos for trans rights protest at Oxford Union", news, May 31; letters, June 1). Individuals with strong views and the courage to express them must be allowed to speak. Nobody has a duty to agree or even to listen. Denying free expression to someone with whom one disagrees may also deny them the opportunity to shoot themselves in the foot.
Andrew Scadding
Endon, Staffs

Sir, In the debate around Kathleen Stock's visit to the Oxford Union no mention has been made of the fact that, since many young people are highly suggestible and wish to be "with the crowd", they may feel that they need to go along with a politically correct view that reason tells them is wrong.
David Day
Ackworth, W Yorks

A new formula

Sir, The immense difficulties in overtaking at the Monaco Grand Prix (sport, May 31), were best encapsulated by the former world champion Nelson Piquet, who once memorably said: "Driving round Monaco is like riding a bicycle in your living room." Since present-day Formula One cars are clearly no longer fit for purpose on the circuit and the race is hardly a true sporting test, perhaps, with its glamorous surroundings and presence of the rich and famous, it would be equally attractive as an environmentally friendly bicycle race, for which it is eminently suitable.
Adrian Brodkin
London N2

Inspiring rambles

Sir, When praising tinkering in garages, garden sheds and attics (news and leading article, June 1), we should spare a thought for rambling: in 1941 George de Mestral found burdock burrs clinging to his clothing (and dog) in the Alps, and in 1967 Godfrey Hounsfield thought up computed tomography on a country walk. Imagine life without Velcro and CT medical imaging.
Tim Williams
Waldron, E Sussex

Signs of the times

Sir, Some years ago, drivers into Lancashire from Yorkshire would encounter the rather prissy sign (notebook, May 31; letter, June 1): "Welcome to Lancashire, the caring county." Some wag had scrawled on the reverse, in the Yorkshire tradition of sacrificing elegance to epigram: "Welcome to Yorkshire, where no bugger gives a chuff."
Dr Julian Critchlow
Ditcham, Hants

Sir, Driving east of London towards more rural parts I used to be amused by a large brewer's roadside sign: "You are now entering Young's country — welcome." Underneath someone, possibly from the Bristol area, had added: "Take Courage."
David Taylor
Corsham, Wilts

Sir, Huw Beynon's imaginary road sign welcoming visitors to Laugharne with the opening line of *Under Milk Wood* should also read, "Twinned with Llareggub".
Dr John Burscough
Brigg, N Lincs

Daily Universal Register

US: Supporters of stricter gun controls mark National Gun Violence Awareness Day.
World: European Space Agency's orbiter broadcasts live images from Mars's surface.

Nature notes



An unseasonal blizzard fills the air. But this isn't snow; it's the white seeds of the aspen tree. A grove grows nearby. Given a good wind these seeds can travel a couple of kilometres, although a dozen metres or so is more typical. The species has a second method of spreading; it sends out suckers which then produce trees. Aspens generated in this way are genetically identical; essentially the same tree, even though they might be as far as 40m away from the parent tree. They often grow by water, where their bark is a key part of the European beaver's winter diet. In Britain, aspens are most common in the northwest of Scotland.
JONATHAN TULLOCH

Birthdays today



Carlos Acosta, *pictured*, ballet dancer, principal guest artist, Royal Ballet (2003-16), and director, Birmingham Royal Ballet, 50; **Sir David Arculus**, chairman, O2 plc (2004-06), 77; **Kevin Brownlow**, film director, *It Happened Here* (1964), and writer, *The Search for Charlie Chaplin* (2010), 85; **Michael Clark**, dancer and choreographer, 61; **Dominic Cooper**, actor, *Mamma Mia!* (2008), 45; **Jon Culshaw**, impressionist and comedian, *Dead Ringers* (2002-06), 55; **Sir Jon Cunliffe**, deputy governor (financial stability), Bank of England, 70; **Mims Davies**, Conservative MP for Mid Sussex, minister for social mobility, youth and progression, 48; **Sir Mark Elder**, music director, Hallé orchestra, English National Opera (1979-1993), 76; **Jonathan Evans**, chairman, British Insurance Brokers' Association, Welsh Conservative Party (2014-17), former MP (1992-97, 2010-15), 73; **Dave "Boy" Green**, boxer, former British welterweight boxing champion, 70; **Tony Hadley**, singer-songwriter, Spandau Ballet, *True* (1983), 63; **Lasse Hallström**, film director, *Chocolat* (2000), 77; **Rt Rev the Lord (Richard) Harries of Pentregarth**, bishop of Oxford (1987-2006), author, *Intelligent Faith* (2009), 87; **Dame Rosalyn Higgins** KC, president, International Court of Justice (2006-09), 86; **Sonia Lawson**, painter, 89; **Sir Richard Long**, sculptor, *White Water Line* (Turner prize, 1989), 78; **Angelo Mathews**, cricketer, Sri Lanka, former captain in all formats, 36; **Helen Oxenbury**, children's writer and illustrator, *Charley Meets Grandpa* (2013), 85; **Ol Parker**, film director and writer, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (2011), 54; **Christopher Powney**, artistic director, Royal Ballet School, 55; **Steve Smith**, cricketer, Australia, former national team captain, 34; **Nadhim Zahawi**, Conservative MP for Stratford-on-Avon, minister without portfolio (Cabinet Office) (Oct 2022-Jan 2023), 56.

On this day

In **2001** crown prince Dipendra, a former Eton College student, was proclaimed king of Nepal, two days after he fatally shot eight members of his family and then shot himself. He died after three days in a coma.

The last word

"Common sense is the best distributed commodity in the world, for every man is convinced that he is well supplied with it."
René Descartes, philosopher and scientist, *Le Discours de la méthode* (1637)

THE TIMES · TIMES PAST · FUTURE

Something Rotten

The suspension of a Labour MP for alleged sexual harassment risks undermining already waning public faith in the parliamentary process. Time for serious reform

MPs who defy the duopoly that rules British politics have always struggled for a foothold in parliament. Yet Westminster's newest independent grouping grows unstoppably. Geraint Davies, a veteran Labour MP, became its fourteenth member yesterday. With his 13 new colleagues he has only one thing in common. Like them, he did not leave his party to sit as an independent by choice. Rather, he was suspended from its whip over accusations of misconduct. Others have resigned their memberships and one has been expelled. Their presence is a symptom of the sickness pervading a broken parliamentary culture.

Five women, two of them fellow Labour MPs and all younger than Mr Davies, have accused him of inappropriate behaviour. One was aged only 19 at the time of the alleged incident, another just 22. They complained of unwanted sexual attention, both physical and verbal. More than 20 other people who spoke to the Politico website, MPs and parliamentary staff among them, described a pattern of excessive drinking, sexualised language and touching. Announcing the suspension of Mr Davies from the whip, a Labour spokeswoman said: "These are incredibly serious allegations of completely unacceptable behaviour."

Voters are likely to agree. Mr Davies now faces an investigation into his behaviour, reports of which he says he does not recognise. He will not be the last. The independent MPs alongside whom he will now sit include Julian Knight, suspended by the Conservatives for alleged sexual assault, and David Warburton, a fellow Tory accused of drug abuse. Both men have denied wrongdoing.

Four MPs elected in 2019 have since quit over sexual impropriety. One of them, Imran Ahmad Khan, formerly the Conservative MP for Wakefield, was convicted of sexually assaulting a 15-year-old boy. Neil Parish twice watched pornography in the Commons chamber. Mike Hill and Chris Matheson, Labour MPs, sexually harassed their staff. And this is to say nothing of Charlie Elphicke, the former MP jailed for sexual assault in 2020, nor the anonymous Tory MP arrested for rape over a year ago, who remains on bail.

Dozens more MPs have been investigated and censured by the parliamentary commissioner for standards for failing to declare their financial interests, misusing Commons resources, or bringing the reputation of the House into disrepute.

Voters with waning trust in the parliamentary process may be forgiven the impression that misbehaviour, even criminality, is endemic, and the disciplinary processes designed to deal with it are unfit for purpose. Nearly six years have passed since the MeToo movement burst into the public consciousness and exposed abuses of power in industries across the world. Yet still cases of misconduct arise with depressing regularity.

Given this unedifying history, it is almost grotesque that MPs on the culture select committee wish to stage what amounts to a show trial for ITV executives it accuses of failing to act over Phillip Schofield. In their rush to grandstand they demonstrate the most profound failure of Britain's political culture: its preference for self-aggrandisement over self-examination, particularly when MPs' own behaviour is called into question. They ought to address the sins of their colleagues before salivating over Mr Schofield's transgressions.

Too many MPs behave as if their power is not a privilege bestowed by the electorate but a perk to be enjoyed with impunity – no matter the cost to their constituents or the harm done to victims. It is time for serious reform. MPs and peers accused of violent or sexual offences face being banned from Westminster. That is sensible, but only a start. The crumbling parliamentary estate and its dingy bars have allowed misconduct to fester for too long. Ministers should grasp the nettle, move MPs out, and embark on a fresh start.

Standstill on the Tracks

Rail strikes are increasingly ineffective and will drive thousands from train travel

Yet again, the railways are on strike. On some routes, a few trains will run today; on others, the stations will be shut and the lines silent, as the RMT union stages another one-day walkout, the twentieth since its policy of industrial action began a year ago. Tomorrow it will be the turn of Aslef, the union representing 22,000 train drivers. Its strike, likely to cause far more disruption, is timed to cause the greatest publicity and loss of earnings to the rail companies as thousands coming down from Manchester to watch the FA Cup final at Wembley will have to squeeze on to coaches. The aim, according to the union's blinkered thinking, is to show up the intransigence of the rail companies in not meeting Aslef's pay demands; the result will be that infuriated passengers will desert the railways forever.

Both unions are a throwback to the 1970s. Led by militant Marxists with a clear political agenda, they thrive on industrial action to galvanise their members, wear down the government and fight a rearguard Luddite campaign against any changes that threaten to cut jobs or boost productivity. They have miscalculated their power and the public mood. More and more people have found a way to work around the strikes. Commuters are no longer a captive market for the railways; outside London, the vast majority of people go to work by car. Indeed, with more and more now working from home, the railways are swiftly losing dependable income as well as public sympathy. The government paid out some £1,000 per household, or £300,000 for each rail worker, to subsidise the railways during the pandemic. Taxpayers are now asking why rail workers are entitled to a far higher wage increase than nurses when pay for the top train drivers is already in excess of £65,000.

The strikes do, of course, cause hardship. The hospitality industry, struggling to recover from the crippling effects of lockdown, calculates that the walkouts will cost some £132 million in lost sales. Family reunions, holiday travel — one of the few rail markets to show real post-Covid resilience — and the attempt to shift more freight from road to rail will all suffer. But the unions are naively out of touch with the public mood if they think that rail users will back the unions' claim that the government does not want a settlement because the rail companies still insist on greater productivity. The longer the dispute goes on, the more delusional are the union tactics. The militants in Aslef are now pressing for a month of action, believing this will force the government to change its stance and enforce a settlement on the rail operators. There is loose talk on the strikes continuing for up to three years. By that time the railways will find the country has virtually abandoned travel by train. The unions should remember what happened last time the country was held to ransom: the 1979 "winter of discontent" was followed by Thatcherite curbs on union power that forever cut both their membership and their political clout.

Strikes not only cost the country money; they also drain unions of their own resources. Strike pay can swiftly bankrupt a union if it calls members out too often. Aslef, whose members do not receive financial support, may be able to hold out for longer. But the RMT, the more militant of the two, may soon find its members unwilling to make further sacrifices at a time of high inflation. There is room for compromise, nevertheless. All it now needs is for the unions to remove their blinkers.

Rainbow Nation

Gloucester's newly colourful houses should be emulated elsewhere

The pastel facades of St Petersburg are justly celebrated, as indeed are those belonging to many less monumental buildings on the Baltic shores. Further south, the spectacularly vivid harbour at Menton on the French Riviera resembles a Jasper Johns abstract in pink, lemon and red stucco. In the US, the "painted ladies" of San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury neighbourhood sell for silly money. Closer to home, the vibrant seafront at Tobermory is one of the best sights of Scotland's islands.

To this list of flamboyantly-fronted real estate we must now add Hopewell Street in Gloucester, where 63 houses painted in all the colours of the rainbow – plus a few others – have just been unveiled. Tash Frootko, the property developer behind the project, has been brightening Gloucester's streets for five years. Her scheme is brilliantly simple, designed to bring about achievable goals: cheer people up; create a talking point; bring the community together; instil a sense of civic and neighbourhood pride. Frootko's plan is working.

Residents report that this reassuringly cheap method of brightening the environment lifts their spirits as well as the value of their property. "It has brought love, fun, colour and laughter to our street," commented one resident, which is quite some endorsement of the power of paint. Bold redecoration is not a panacea for urban renewal, yet Frootko's work shows what a difference one creative, civic-minded, energetic individual can make.

Gloucester's rainbow streets and squares have attracted an influx of visitors. There are millions of people in the UK with the time, money and desire to explore their own country. Increasingly, domestic tourists want to experience not solely the pretty rural spots or the big city cultural centres; they also thirst after the quirky, the innovative, the edgy, the alternative. In recognising and encouraging this trend, Gloucester is to be congratulated.

World

Cyberwarriors of Ukraine defeat millions of attacks

Kyiv is fighting Kremlin hackers as well as Putin's forces in a hybrid war, writes **Maxim Tucker**



Just as the Russian missiles were closing on their targets, an alert flashed on the general's screen. Kremlin hackers were already in the system of a regional power network under aerial attack.

Moscow was trying to pull the plug on two million Ukrainians, taking the energy grid apart from the inside while explosions rocked power stations and substations, fusing a virtual war with attacks from the air.

"The biggest attacks, the most critical attacks, are on the energy sector and other critical infrastructure, when the Russians are firing missiles at the same time, just like they did with the missiles we saw today," Brigadier General Yurii Shchyhol told The Times in Kyiv, which is in the grip of a three-week Russian bombardment.

"Someone could be on the surgical table, someone could be giving birth, someone could have had an operation, and [a successful attack] would lead to fatal consequences," he said. "Unfortunately, this is our daily life."

Shchyhol, 39, commands Ukraine's cyber-army as head of its State Special Communications and Information Protection Service. As well as safeguarding presidential and military communications he has responsibility for defending his country's infrastructure against the world's most formidable cyberwarfare specialists — and its most aggressive intelligence agencies.

Russian state-sponsored hackers have been credited with accessing President Macron's election campaign in 2017, US political parties during the 2016 presidential elections, and paralysing Estonia in 2007.

When President Putin's tanks crossed the border into Ukraine in February last year, experts expected that those hackers, led by the FSB and GRU security services, would swiftly overwhelm Ukrainian networks, collapsing the country's communications.

Instead, Shchyhol's teams have defeated 148 million largely automated attempts by Russian hackers to penetrate Ukrainian systems since the war began. They have fought off another 3,700 attempts to destroy the systems once Moscow's agents were already inside, he said. The attempted hacks occur in a number of ways, including malware attached to emails, targeting insecure networks or weak passwords.

The targets can be civilian as well as state-controlled. When Russian hackers attacked Ukrtelecom, a huge Ukrainian commercial telecommunications company, they brought down a third of the country's fibre-optic networks for six hours.

The first sign of an intrusion is when Ukraine's sensors detect programs behaving in an unusual way. Automated systems will engage the intruders, but advanced attacks can evade or overwhelm that first line of defence.

"If the automatic system does not exercise its algorithm, but says that intervention is needed from a specialist, then the specialist checks where the malware is located and what damage it has caused or can cause," the general said. "Only then do we take action. It is not always possible to simply shut down the infected server, because this can make things even worse, it can disrupt the connection with 60 servers."

During a complex attack that gets through their automated defences, members of Shchyhol's Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert) must sometimes race their vehicles into a maelstrom of missile fire to physically access targeted servers. "Cert is essentially a team of firefighters who help put out fires for the owners of these networks, the administrators of these systems," Shchyhol said.

The teams respond to between six and eight attacks per day. Before the war it was one or two. Western help plays a key role. In cyberspace, Ukraine is already part of Nato. "Three years ago we had no direct international exchange with any countries of the civilised world. Today, we have exchanges with 16 such countries, and we have become a member of the joint Nato centre in Tallinn," the general said, referring to the Nato Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence.

"Today, we have access to the knowledge and technology of any of our partners from the US, UK, France, Japan, Romania and Poland. In fact, they are already learning from us. While they have financial resources and greater technological capabilities, the skills we have acquired during the large-scale invasion are not available to any country in the world today. When we come to a Nato training today, we learn how to use their software and they learn from us the tactics and strategies of cyberdefence."

The Tallinn centre is a collaboration of scientific and technical teams, he said, but bilateral relationships, such as with GCHQ, determine strategy and tactical responses to specific attacks.

"If there are any threats that we detect or the British team detects, there is always direct communication between our technical teams," he said.

Even before the war, western partners were helping to build Ukrainian cyberdefences. As Putin massed tanks on Ukraine's borders before the invasion, the US sent soldiers from Army Cyber Command and private Silicon Valley contractors to help Kyiv.

Yet Ukraine's government deserves credit for building cyber-fortifications well before then, Shchyhol said. "Over the past two and a half years, we managed to unite all the bodies responsible for cyberdefence in our country."

As well as overseeing the partnerships that provide Ukraine's cyberdefences, the general is responsible for repairing frontline infrastructure and restoring communications to liberated areas. Eight of his soldiers and 20 civilian workers have been killed in this way and dozens more wounded.

As with all Ukrainian officials when asked about retaliation against Russia, the general is coy about attacks on the Russian internet. Over the past year, the "Ukrainian IT Army", an open collective of Ukrainian "hacktivists", says it has attacked more than 15,000 Russian websites, including government services, banks and private companies.

"Ukraine does not co-ordinate or control the work of hackers who destroy Russian networks," Shchyhol said. "These … hackers working for Ukraine are definitely independent. They choose the targets, the systems to be attacked and they do it themselves," he added, before breaking into a wide and knowing smile.

Additional reporting by Oleksii Savchenko

More shells land in Russia

Samantha Berkhead

The head of Russia's Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine, said eight civilians had been injured in "uninterrupted" shelling yesterday, the latest casualties in a spate of attacks on Russian soil.

In Kyiv, three people were killed and several wounded in the deadliest round of Russian strikes on Ukraine's capital for several weeks. Nataliya Belchenko, 33, and her daughter, nine, died while trying to enter a locked bomb shelter, along with another woman, 34. The child's father, who was trying to find another way in, survived. Air defences intercepted all ten missiles, identified as short-range ballistic Iskanders, fired at the city, but the casualties were caused by falling debris.

The governor of Belgorod, Vyacheslav Gladkov, meanwhile blamed Ukraine for Grad-missile attacks on the region, and ordered children to be evacuated. Local districts were also hit by an anti-Kremlin militia fighting with Ukrainians last week.



Australia's hero a killer, says judge

Australia's most decorated living soldier, the Victoria Cross recipient Ben Roberts-Smith, committed war crimes, including murder, while serving with the SAS in Afghanistan, a judge ruled (Bernard Lagan writes). Handing down judgment in a defamation action brought against newspapers, including The Sydney Morning Herald and Melbourne's The Age, Justice Anthony Besanko found that Roberts-Smith, 44, had murdered Afghan civilians, including a farmer he kicked off a cliff. He was also

Senate will sit through

United States

David Charter, Alistair Dawber

Washington

The Democrats placed the US Senate in continuous session to try to force through a bill to raise the government's $31.4 trillion legal borrowing limit before Monday's deadline for a default.

Chuck Schumer, the Senate majority leader, warned of the risks of delay as some Republicans and some on his own side, including Bernie Sanders, the independent who usually votes with the Democrats, vowed to oppose a deal passed on Wednesday in the House of Representatives. The protracted drama has placed the US at risk of a ratings agency downgrade even if, as most expect, it passes and is signed by President Biden before Monday. That is because House Republicans made clear that they did not believe that raising the so-called debt ceiling to meet commitments made by Congress should be a formality and that it could be used to force future budget cuts.

"We will keep working until the job is done," Schumer said in the chamber as negotiations began with recalcitrant senators, some of whom wanted to bring numerous amendments that could send the bill back to the House and delay the process by hours

Peter Ustinov's eye for art revealed
Page 31



Republicans crowd in to join race against Trump
Page 32



ANTHONY DEVLIN/REUTERS



Ben Roberts-Smith, who met the late Queen, used a victim's prosthetic leg for drinks, above

found to have ordered the murder of a one-legged Afghan dragged from a tunnel by Australian soldiers, and machinegunned another himself. The man Roberts-Smith killed had a prosthetic leg that was later used as a drinking vessel called "Das Boot" at the Australian SAS base in Afghanistan.

The ruling destroys Roberts-Smith's reputation as Australia's greatest living war hero and further damages the Australian SAS.

Legal observers believe the judgment, subject to any appeal, increases the chance that he will face criminal charges.

Ben Saul, a law professor at the University of Sydney, called for Roberts-Smith to be stripped of his VC and for a display about him at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to be removed.

Government sources said there would have to be a criminal finding against Roberts-Smith before his Medal for Gallantry, awarded in 2006, and his VC, awarded in 2011, could be removed.

Although it was a civil case Besanko found that Roberts-Smith broke the moral and legal rules of military engagement.

A military inquiry in 2020 found "credible" information that Australian special forces may have unlawfully killed 39 Afghan civilians and prisoners.

The newspapers had alleged in 2018 that Roberts-Smith was complicit in the murders of six unarmed prisoners in Afghanistan, had bullied colleagues and hit a former mistress.

In a packed Sydney court yesterday the judge found that the news outlets had established the substantial truth of the key allegation in the case: that Roberts-Smith was involved in the unlawful killing of unarmed prisoners. Although not every murder allegation was established by the newspapers, the judge found they had proven that some took place. This was enough for him to dismiss Roberts-Smith's case.

In an 11th-hour intervention, the Australian government successfully sought a delay to the publication of the full judgment to give it time to ensure that national security would not be compromised.

Roberts-Smith was said to be in Bali, Indonesia, and he was not in court for the judgment against him.

Having claimed to have had his life ruined by six articles published by The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald and The Canberra Times, Roberts-Smith was seeking to clear his reputation.

He was funded by one of Australia's richest men, the television tycoon Kerry Stokes, who hired Roberts-Smith after he left the army.

the night to pass US debt deal

or days. Time is a luxury the Senate does not have," Schumer said. "Any needless delay or any last-minute hold-ups would be an unnecessary and even dangerous risk. The vast majority of senators recognise that passing this bill is supremely important."

His counterpart, Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader, said he would work for fast passage, saying: "I'll be proud to support it without delay."

The bill that passed the House by 314 votes to 117 despite a rebellion by 71 Republicans and 46 Democrats. It suspends the debt limit until 2025, meaning that there will not be a repeat of similar wrangling during next year's presidential election campaign. Some Republicans are angry that Kevin McCarthy, the House Speaker, did not push for greater cuts in spending as the price for agreeing to extra borrowing that is likely to amount to $4 trillion. Some Democrats are upset that White House negotiators agreed to tougher entitlement restrictions in areas such as food aid and speeding up the permission process for some energy projects, as well as approving a 303-mile gas pipeline through West Virginia.

Mike Lee, a Republican senator for Utah, said he has threatened to "use every procedural tool" to impede a bill that does not have significant spending cuts. "If they don't do those things, then I might do that," he said. "There are a lot of things that they could still do to convince me to collapse time."

Lindsey Graham, a Republican senator for South Carolina, tweeted that he would try to undo the bill because it did not have enough defence spending.

Sanders said the concessions to the Republicans were "totally unnecessary" because Biden could use a clause in the US Constitution that stated the "validity of the public debt of the United States… shall not be questioned" to force it through without a vote.

Bobby Kennedy Jr's bid could topple Joe Biden, Gerard Baker, page 25

Compromise and scandal catch up with the Greens

Germany
Oliver Moody Berlin

Only a year ago Robert Habeck, the writer whose job it is to end Germany's addiction to Russian oil and gas, was the pole star in the political firmament.

Animated, decisive and pragmatic, the Greens party vice-chancellor addressed voters' concerns head on in talk shows and shredded decades of German energy policy with aplomb.

For months on end he topped political popularity rankings. Der Spiegel hailed him as the "better chancellor" and the master of a new style of rhetoric that traded heavily on frankness about hard choices and pangs of self-doubt.

Now half the electorate want Habeck to quit. Comedians mock his pseudo-folksy manner, leather-jacketed image and contorted expressions — "We Greens have learnt to grasp apparent opposites" — on primetime television. Only the leaders of the radical right and left are more widely disliked. It is a little like watching the rise and fall of Tony Blair on fast-forward.

The Greens are not in a happy place. Bruised by claims of nepotism at the highest levels of Habeck's economics "super-ministry" and facing heavy resistance over climate policies, the party has slipped back to fourth place in the polls, behind the hard-right Alternative for Germany (AfD). Its most pressing problem is Habeck's attempt to ban the installation of new oil and gas boilers in households from next year.

In theory the measure is not outlandish. Heating buildings accounts for more than a quarter of the European Union's energy consumption and there is obviously room for improvement.

At least four of Germany's neighbours have all but eliminated fossil fuel-powered heating. Sweden started its transition from oil to district heating and heat pumps more than 30 years ago, cutting the sector's carbon footprint by more than 95 per cent. Denmark followed suit in 2013. German officials estimate they could knock 1.2 per cent off the country's CO_2 emissions by doing the same.

Yet the looming cliff edge has caused consternation. About four million oil or gas-fired boilers will have to be replaced next year. Many owners worry about the €10,000 to €20,000 cost of a heat pump, even with subsidies that cover up to 40 per cent of the bill and incentives for those on low incomes.

Even those with the necessary funds are liable to struggle with an acute shortage of heating technicians and a profusion of planning regulations. Others bristle at a clause that would allow the state to collect data on household energy consumption via smart meters. The opposition has described the plan as a "shameless" imposition and "totally unrealistic". Even Habeck's coalition partners no longer bother to conceal their disdain. The Social Democrats (SPD) have openly criticised the bill's "one-sided" focus on heat pumps.

Asked whether Habeck could get the law through the Bundestag, one senior MP from the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) — another notional ally of the Greens — burst out laughing.

At the same time the Greens are reeling from a scandal in Habeck's inner circle. A fortnight ago he had to sack his right-hand man, the state secretary Patrick Graichen, who turned out to have made his best man head of the national energy agency and approved €600,000 in state funding for his sister's conservation group. For weeks the press was full of diagrams charting the "Green octopus", a network of elite environmentalists stretching seamlessly from think tanks and lobby groups into the upper crust of the civil service.

The setbacks keep coming. In December the Greens wound up on the losing side in a largely pointless coalition battle over whether to keep Germany's three remaining nuclear power stations going for a few months.

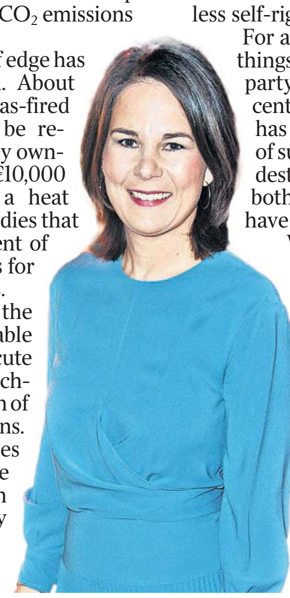
In March the FDP accused the Greens of waging a "culture war against the car" during an unusually vicious bout of skirmishing over whether to build new autobahns. After 48 hours of continuous negotiations, the sides reached a bizarre compromise: 144 stretches of motorway will be built or renovated, on the condition that they are fringed with strips of solar panels.

Such controversies have hammered two core elements of the modern Green brand. First, they risk undoing the years of effort Habeck and his allies put in to shed a reputation as a Verbotspartei, the caste of sanctimonious puritans. The second is the emphasis the party put on clean politics, and they tend to pay a higher price for the sort of misbehaviour that voters take for granted in less self-righteous parties.

For all these difficulties, though, things could be a lot worse. The party is between 14 and 16 per cent in polls, suggesting it still has more or less the same level of support it got at the last Bundestag election in 2021, while both of its coalition partners have fallen back.

While Habeck's star has waned, Annalena Baerbock, the Green foreign minister, remains an asset: her 44 per cent approval rating is the second highest in German politics.

Every now and then Green MPs are disobliging about Habeck yet there is still recognition that the Greens are going through a necessary transformation, even if it comes with growing pains.



Annalena Baerbock is still a Greens asset

Russia seeks allies to take on the dollar

South Africa
Jane Flanagan Cape Town

A group of nations dominated by China and Russia is considering its own trading currency to counter the US dollar as it seeks to challenge the economic dominance of the West.

Foreign ministers from the Brics group — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — have been joined by their counterparts from more than a dozen applicants, including Saudi Arabia, Iran and Egypt, as it seeks to establish itself as a serious economic and political force to rival the G7.

The two-day gathering in Cape Town, attended by Russia's foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, will settle on the agenda for a summit in August, also in South Africa, of the Brics heads of state to which President Putin has been invited.

President Ramaphosa's government is wrestling with how it can host the Russian leader in Johannesburg without having to effect an arrest warrant for war crimes that was issued by the International Criminal Court.

"Our government is currently looking at what the legal options are with respect to this matter and I've indicated that it is something the president will be [the] best person to speak about once it has reached a conclusion," said Naledi Pandor, the foreign minister.

Once viewed as a loose, largely symbolic association of disparate emerging economies, Brics has taken more concrete shape, driven initially by Beijing and, since the start of the Ukraine war in February last year, with added impetus from Moscow.

The bloc accounts for 41 per cent of the world's population and about a quarter of global gross domestic product. This is still far less than the economic share of the western-dominated G7 countries, but expansion could narrow the gap while also helping Russia to get around western sanctions.

MATHILDE GUILLEMOT/SOLENT NEWS



Over the top A cartwheeling baby baboon was captured by Mathilde Guillemot at Paris Zoo. The others ignored it, she said

Spain hot and bothered over July election

Spain
Isambard Wilkinson Madrid

In politically polarised Spain there are few issues on which people can agree but the decision by Pedro Sánchez, the Socialist prime minister, to call a snap election during the summer holidays has been universally regarded as an act of sacrilege.

As soon as he made the announcement this week, after suffering heavy defeats in regional elections, Spaniards registered their alarm at having to vote on July 23.

Alberto Feijóo, leader of the main conservative opposition Popular Party, said: "Calling elections on the hottest dates and during the largest holiday exodus is an unprecedented event in almost half a century of democracy. Does he want the least participation?"

Popular reaction was exemplified by Àngels Barceló, a talk-show host who threw up her arms and rolled her eyes, the video of which went viral. "That's the week that I go on vacation with my father, who is 90 years old," she explained. "No, no, no, I'm not going to delay it because I already have the tickets and my father is super-excited. So that's why it annoyed me, above all."

Newspapers ran articles advising on whether or not to cancel holidays or to vote by post. Postal workers have complained about the extra work. "We want to die. Here, and in most of the regions, we are overwhelmed," one employee told the broadcaster Cadena SER.

Thousands of officials will be forced to work at polling stations on the election Sunday. Many will have already booked holidays and the law only allows absence for important family events or illness. Those who flout the rules risk fines of up to €5,000 or even jail.

A group of young conservatives tweeted a photograph of Sánchez and his wife, María Begoña Gómez, wearing swimming costumes on the beach with the caption: "Holidays? My arse."

US trade deal with Taiwan provokes Chinese anger

United States
Richard Lloyd Parry Asia Editor
David Charter US Editor

China reacted angrily to a trade deal between Taiwan and the US that will strengthen the independent island's relations with the West as Beijing menaces it with the threat of invasion.

Representatives of both governments were due to sign the first stage of the US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade in a low-key ceremony in Washington. It aims to boost trade and support small and medium enterprises, the US said.

The deal comes at a delicate moment, with the US hoping to improve relations with Beijing after outrage over a Chinese spy balloon that flew over America at the start of the year.

Beijing was angered by a stopover by President Tsai of Taiwan in the US in early April that included a meeting with Kevin McCarthy, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Senior officials led by Jake Sullivan, the national security adviser, held two days of talks in Vienna last month designed to revive relations but these have yet to yield face-to-face contact between President Biden and President Xi. They have not spoken since meeting in November on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Bali, despite Washington angling for talks.

Further trade negotiations between the US and Taiwan will take place on more contentious areas such as tariffs, agriculture, labour and environmental rules and the privileges enjoyed by state-owned companies.

In some ways, the agreement is a consolation prize. Taiwan was excluded from the larger Asian trade agreement, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity, which was announced by Biden in March and which has 14 founding members, including Japan, South Korea, Australia and Indonesia.

The omission was intended to reduce offence to China, which regards Taiwan as a part of its territory and threatens to "reunify" by force, if necessary. But the deal still upset Beijing, which regards itself, rather than the democratically elected government of Taiwan, as the sole authority entitled to make agreements involving the island.

"Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, and the one-China principle is the prerequisite for Taiwan to participate in foreign economic cooperation," China's ministry of commerce said.

"China always firmly opposes countries that have diplomatic relations with it to conduct any form of official exchanges with Taiwan, including the negotiation and signing of any economic and trade agreement with sovereignty implications and official nature."

At an international security summit in Singapore this weekend, China is refusing to meet at the highest level with the US. Lloyd Austin, the US defence secretary, yesterday described as "unfortunate" the refusal by Li Shangfu, China's minister of national defence, to meet him at the annual Shangri-La Dialogue Asian security summit. He met Yasukazu Hamada, the Japanese defence minister, yesterday.

A Chinese military jet flew "aggressively close" to a US reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea this week. "I'm concerned about at some point having an incident that could very, very quickly spiral out of control," Austin said.

Mission to stop oil spilling from 'time bomb' tanker

Yemen
Richard Spencer
Middle East Correspondent

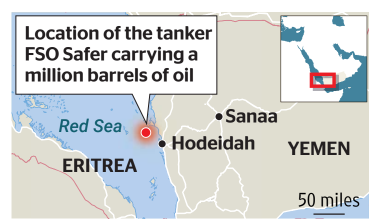
Salvage workers have stepped aboard an oil tanker described as a "floating time bomb" at the start of an ambitious project to prevent a million barrels of oil spilling into the Red Sea.

Specialists from the Ndeavour, a support vessel hired by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), set foot on the tanker, FSO Safer, for the first time on Wednesday afternoon. They will assess the danger posed by the tanker, which is decaying but has been out of reach since the Yemeni civil war started in 2014. If they decide it is safe, they will explore the oil storage areas and neutralise any build-up of gas, which could cause a devastating explosion.

In two to three weeks, the Safer could be assessed fit to start a ship-to-ship transfer of its contents. In an unusual move, the UN has bought its own supertanker to take the crude oil.

"At every stage, we have to be prepared for surprises," the UNDP administrator, Achim Steiner, said. "But by early to mid-July the emergency phase of the operation should be complete."

For years, the Safer has been a sword of Damocles hanging over one of the world's most important shipping lanes, flanked by the pristine but geopolitically sensitive coastlines of Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.



Most recently used to store Yemeni oil waiting for export, it sits 4.8 nautical miles off the coast near the port of Hodeidah. The port became a flashpoint in the civil war after Iranian-backed Houthi rebels stormed the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, in September 2014.

A rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which backs the Yemen government, has cemented a ceasefire, however. The Houthis allowed the UN to prepare a rescue effort funded by oil companies, governments — including Britain — and an online crowdfunding appeal. The total cost of the operation is estimated at $149 million, of which $29 million is still to be found.

French fight 'destructive' boom in Airbnb

France
Charles Bremner Paris

French towns and cities have banded together to fight Airbnb and other tourist rental platforms which they blame for hollowing out historic centres, driving up property prices and forcing locals to leave.

Campaign groups from 20 communities, ranging from the fortified Breton harbour of Saint-Malo to Marseilles port and Chamonix, the Mont Blanc mountain resort, have joined forces to press for state action against what they describe as a blight that is disrupting life in their towns.

"This is destruction. Entire neighbourhoods are being emptied," Franck Rolland, a Saint Malo activist who heads the national group, said at its first news conference. Airbnb, by far the biggest platform, is advertising 800,000 offers of accommodation in France, with 22,000 in Paris, the group says.

Beyond the nuisance of noisy parties, suitcases clattering on cobblestones and messy rubbish bins, the rental boom is creating an exodus of local residents, forcing the closure of shops and schools and causing a labour shortage, the campaigners say. Their main target is not owner-occupiers, but people and companies who buy up property to cash in year-round on the lucrative tourist rental business. In the southwestern Basque country, where local authorities have recently imposed restrictions, campaigners say half the homes in the village of Guéthary are short-term rentals, with 45 per cent in the port town of Saint Jean-de-Luz and 40 per cent in the resort city of Biarritz. In Saint Malo's walled city, the first town to crack down on tourist lettings, local anger is reported to have manifested itself in damage to renters' vehicles. Bastia, Corsica's main port, began imposing curbs this week.

In the heart of the Alpine city of Annecy, Brigitte Cottet, an anti-Airbnb campaigner, said half the apartment buildings in her street were occupied by tourist rentals. "In the old town, 23 buildings have been declared dangerous for lack of upkeep. Airbnb owners don't repair roofs," she told Le Monde.

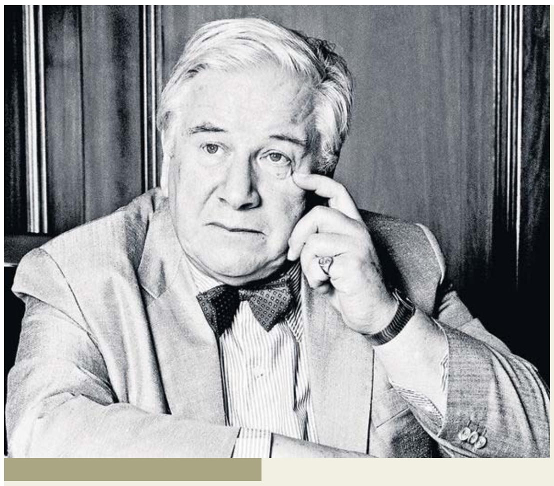
The campaign has been launched after a bill tabled by a cross-party group of MPs to curb the conversion of private residences into year-round commercial operations was delayed in parliament last month.

Paris has imposed a string of conditions that have cramped the activities of Airbnb and its smaller rivals. Homeowners are restricted to letting their primary residence for a maximum of 120 days a year. Non-resident owners and anyone wanting to rent a property out for more than 120 days must register as a business. Non-resident owners must also convert a commercial property into a residential one to qualify.

The city, however, depends on income from rental visitors and it is relying on Airbnb to help in next summer's Olympic games. The fat rents that can be charged, up to €10,500 a night for a two-room flat in central Paris, are tempting many residents to think of moving out for the Games.

Paris has been working with Barcelona, Amsterdam and other tourist cities on ways of regulating the business.

Dario Nardella, the mayor of Florence said he wanted to ban short-term lets from the historic city centre entirely, and use tax breaks to encourage more permanent residents.



Raconteur's collected art tells its own story

Sir Peter Ustinov was an Oscar-winning actor, writer and celebrated raconteur. He also had an eye for art (Adam Sage writes).

Now, 19 years after his death, Ustinov's collection is to go on sale at Sotheby's in Paris in July along with a range of personal items such as film scripts and memorabilia.

The highlights include *La Liseuse*, painted in 1890 by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, the French impressionist, and valued at €1 million. The work was acquired in the mid-1960s by the actor perhaps best known for his role as Hercule Poirot in *Death on the Nile*. Its arrival prompted lengthy discussions about the wall best suited for it at the family home in Neuilly-sur-Seine outside Paris, according to Pavla Ustinov, his daughter.

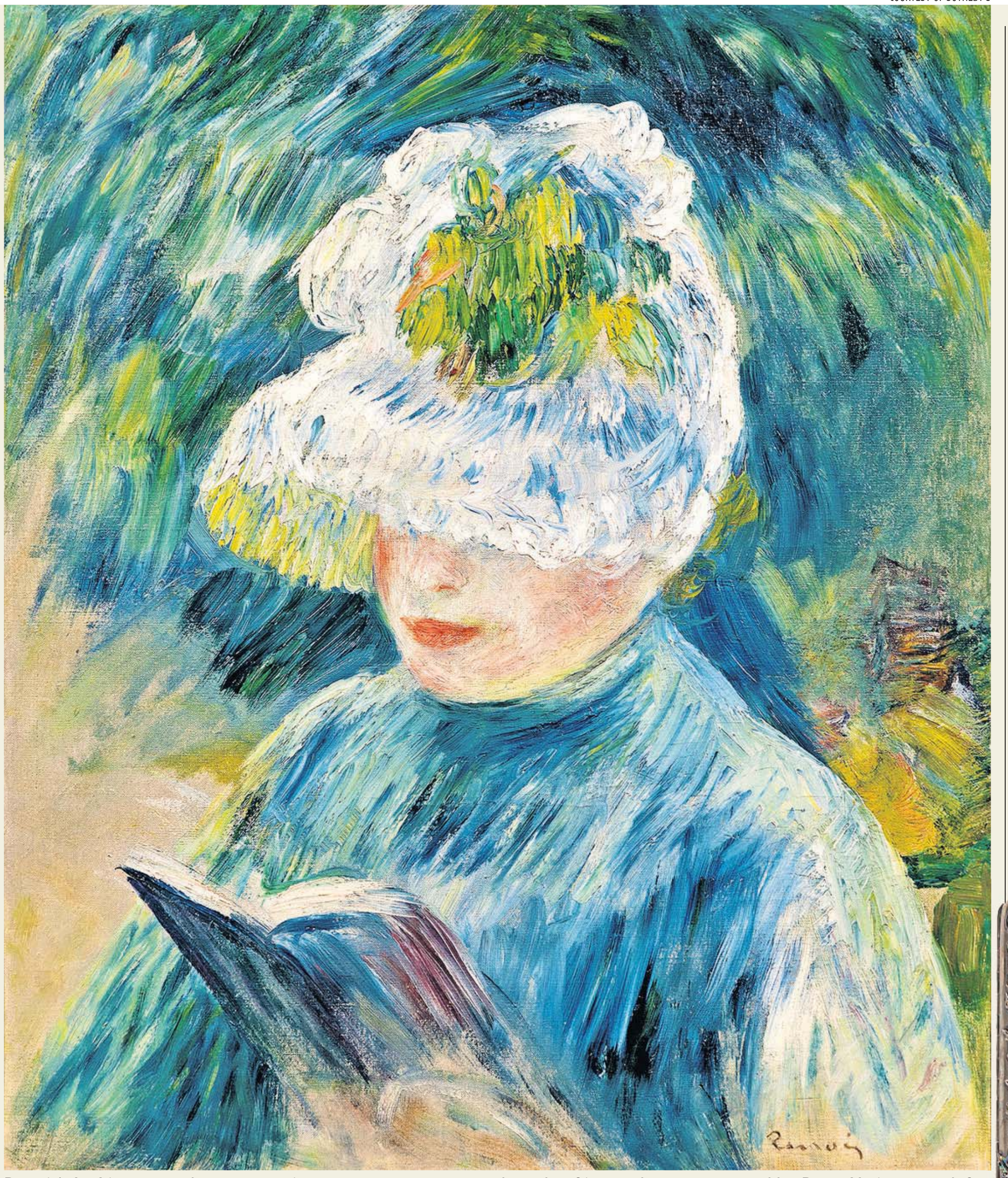
She can also recall being left alone in the dining room as a child to finish her alphabet soup while looking at *Baigneurs à Dieppe*, a 1903 work by Félix Vallotton, the Franco-Swiss painter, which her father also owned. "For hours I tried to reconstruct the name of the artist by looking for the letters one by one," she said. The painting, which is also in the auction, is estimated at up to €700,000.

Another of Ustinov's paintings, *Mujer en un Interior*, by Rufino Tamayo, the 20th-century Mexican artist, was sold by Sotheby's in New York for $609,600 last month. It had been a gift from Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton after they shot a film with him in Mexico.

Pavla Ustinov told Pierre Mothes, the vice-president of Sotheby's France, that she could remember them coming to the house. Burton was feeling unwell that day but Taylor and Ustinov were so busy discussing films they paid no attention to him, she said, leaving her, then a young child, to look after him in the kitchen.

Ustinov, who liked to say he was conceived in Leningrad but born in London, was from an artistic Russian family that emigrated to Britain after the Revolution. Nadia Benois, his mother, was a painter and some of her works are in the sale, including a portrait she did of him, which is valued at up to €5,000.

COURTESY OF SOTHEBY'S





Renoir's La Liseuse and an ornate cigarette case are among the sale of items that were owned by Peter Ustinov, top left

Latvia's foreign minister becomes world's first openly gay president

Latvia
Oliver Moody

The long-serving foreign minister of Latvia has become the world's first openly gay national president.

Edgars Rinkevics, 49, came out in 2014 with the words, "I proudly announce I am gay — good luck all of you," setting a precedent that a few other senior Latvian politicians have since followed.

While socially conservative views on sexuality remain fairly common in Latvia, Rinkevics was by a narrow margin the public favourite to take on the largely ceremonial post, with 22 per cent support compared with 21 per cent for his closest rival, the entrepreneur and architect Uldis Pilens.

In the end Rinkevics needed three rounds of voting to win the necessary majority in Latvia's parliament, the Saeima, after a brief campaign that focused mostly on his diplomatic experience and dependability.

Speaking after the final vote, he said he would ensure that the country continued on its determinedly pro-western trajectory, describing support for Ukraine and Nato as the "cornerstones of our foreign policy".

President Zelensky of Ukraine was among the first world leaders to congratulate Rinkevics on his appointment, hailing him as a "true friend of Ukraine".

Rinkevics, a former radio journalist and defence ministry official, had been foreign minister since 2011. Like Krisjanis Karins, the prime minister, he belongs to the economically liberal Unity party, which won last year's parliamentary election.

In February Rinkevics told The Times that the West needed to develop more "strategic endurance" for a long stand-off with Russia, rebuilding its degraded defence industrial base. "We're not yet catching up," he said.

There have been half a dozen openly gay heads of government, including Leo Varadkar, the taoiseach of Ireland, and Ana Brnabic, the Serbian prime minister, but up to now the only gay head of state was believed to have been Paolo Rondelli, who served as San Marino's captain regent for six months last year.

In 2019 an EU study found that 45 per cent of Latvians were uncomfortable with the idea of a gay, lesbian or bisexual person in high political office.

Gay sex was legalised in the country in 1992, after independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, and last year the courts began recognising civil partnerships. A ban on same-sex marriage continues, which only 24 per cent of voters would like to see overturned.

Widened Republican race 'helps Trump'

United States
David Charter Washington

The entry of Mike Pence and Chris Christie into the 2024 Republican presidential race next week will widen the field of candidates to nine but is seen as benefiting one: Donald Trump.

The 76-year-old former president remains frontrunner and commentators agree that more contenders will further divide the vote against him if they remain in the race when states decide between them next year.

Some see a repeat of 2016 when Trump was able to win primary state elections with as little as 33 per cent of the vote, as he did in South Carolina, the fourth state to choose.

Pence, 63, who was Trump's vice-president, and Christie, 60, a former governor of New Jersey, are competing for the same anti-Trump votes after Pence became demonised by the Trump base for refusing on January 6, 2021, to send back election results to swing states that voted for Joe Biden. Christie endorsed Trump in 2016 but broke with him after the riot at the US Capitol that followed Pence's actions. "We view this race as absolutely wide open, and Iowa is really going to solidify itself as the pivotal player," a Pence source told NBC News, referring to the first state to decide. "It's a place that values Mike Pence's principles — traditional conservative principles — deep-rooted faith and uncommon character."

A poll this week for Morning Consult showed Pence with 5 per cent support among Republican primary voters, in third place behind Trump on 56 per cent and Ron DeSantis on 22 per cent.

Christie barely registers in most polling. They will join two candidates from South Carolina — the former governor Nikki Haley and Tim Scott, a senator — along with DeSantis, the governor of Florida, Asa Hutchinson, the former governor of Arkansas, the broadcaster Larry Elder and the tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy. Chris Sununu, the governor of New Hampshire, is also considering a run. There have been suggestions that DeSantis's polling slump after becoming an early favourite at the start of the year encouraged more hopefuls to throw their hat in the ring.



Chris Christie, left, and Mike Pence entering the field could divide the vote against Donald Trump

Frank Luntz, a veteran Republican pollster, believes there are two other main reasons: Biden's poor poll numbers and the looming legal cases against Trump. In one of these, the special counsel investigation into his retention of secret documents, CNN reported that there was a recording of Trump from July 2021 suggesting that he knew there were limitations on his ability to share a paper he had about attacking Iran.

"The consensus among Republicans is that Biden is even weaker than Trump was in 2020 and that the nomination is worth having," Luntz said. "There's an equally strong feeling that Trump's ongoing legal woes will eventually do him in."

Luntz added: "We could have a repeat of 2016, when all the Republicans attack each other rather than attack Trump. It certainly looks like all the anti-Republican candidates will split the 60 per cent anti-Trump vote, giving Trump the nomination even though he has only 40 per cent of the [Republican] vote."

Chris Galdieri, a politics professor at Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire, an early primary state where DeSantis held four events yesterday, said: "It does look like 2016 in that you have Trump and then a bunch of other people who are not Trump all trying to set themselves up as the not-Trump person. The difference is that, this time around, Trump is the leader of his own personalised movement. He has a much more dedicated constituency than he did eight years ago but there's a lot of folks in the party who say this is not necessarily what we want."

Galdieri added: "I think a lot of these candidates are hoping that what's going on with Trump is just name recognition. Nobody really knows DeSantis or Haley or Hutchinson in the same way. So I think they are thinking, if I shake every hand in Iowa, if I shake every hand in New Hampshire, maybe there'll be an upset."

"It is healthy for the party to have a very competitive primary," Alex Conant, who worked on Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential campaign, told the political website The Hill. "But if you're going to beat Trump, the field needs to winnow faster than it did in 2016. I don't think it matters how many candidates run, I think it matters when candidates drop out."



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Canada stamps health alert on every cigarette

Canada
Keiran Southern

Canada will become the first country to put health warnings on individual cigarettes, with smokers confronted by messages such as "poison in every puff" as they light up.

The alerts — also including "cigarettes cause impotence" and "tobacco smoke harms children" — will be printed on cigarette filters.

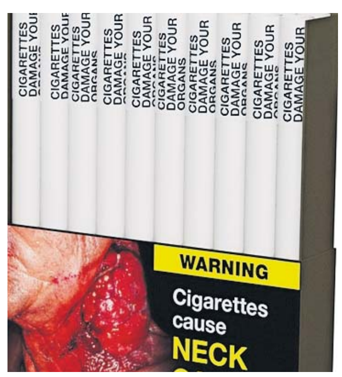
The regulations, which take effect on August 1, will be phased in and tobacco companies must first place the warnings on king-size cigarettes.

King-size cigarettes carrying the warnings will be sold in stores by the end of July next year, followed by regular-size cigarettes, and small cigars with tipping paper and tubes by the end of April 2025, the Canadian government said. "This bold step will make health warning messages virtually unavoidable," Carolyn Bennett, the mental health and addictions minister, said.

The warnings will be printed in English and French, the official languages of Canada. Health Canada said the strategy aims to reduce tobacco use below 5 per cent by 2035. The government said that smoking killed 48,000 Canadians each year.

According to the government's Canadian Tobacco and Nicotine Survey, which was last carried out in 2020, 10 per cent of Canadians aged 15 or older smoke, a decrease from 12 per cent the previous year.

Canada is an anti-smoking pioneer. It was the first country to ban smoking on its domestic flights and then in 1994 it was the first country to prohibit smoking on all flights operated by its carriers. Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship are banned in Canada.



Warnings "will be conveyed with every cigarette and every puff"

Health alerts have been printed on cigarette packets since 1972 and picture warnings since 2001. The latest efforts were praised by the Canadian Cancer Society, which said the country would have the world's best tobacco health warning system.

"A health warning on every individual cigarette is innovative and unprecedented," said Rob Cunningham, the society's senior policy analyst. "The measure means messaging will be conveyed with every cigarette and every puff, will be there during every smoke break, and will reach youth who experiment by borrowing cigarettes from a friend."

Mexican beer takes fizz out of Bud Light

Keiran Southern

Bud Light risks losing its status as the top-selling beer in America following a sharp drop in sales triggered by a marketing campaign with a transgender influencer.

The brand suffered a boycott organised by conservative drinkers after it teamed up with Dylan Mulvaney, 26, a transgender woman with 10.7 million followers on TikTok.

After Mulvaney's face featured on the brand's cans on April 1, sales fell for six weeks, according to Bump Williams Consulting and NielsenIQ. Sales dropped 25.7 per cent for the week ending May 20, according to data obtained by the New York Post.

Meanwhile, the Mexican beer Modelo Especial, Bud Light's closest competitor, gained 9.2 per cent for the week ending May 20.

If the trends continue Modelo could oust Bud Light as the top-selling beer for the year, analysts said.

Anheuser-Busch InBev owns both the Bud Light and Modelo brands but the New York-based conglomerate Constellation Brands controls Modelo in the US.

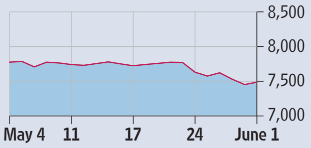
Coors Light, Miller Light and Pabst Blue Ribbon have all had double-digit sales increases since the campaign, according to the Post.

Anheuser-Busch InBev's share price also appears to have suffered, falling from $66.73 at the end of March to $54.07.

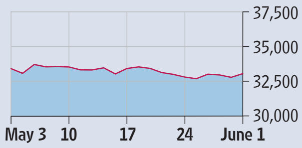
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

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7,490.27 (+44.13)▲

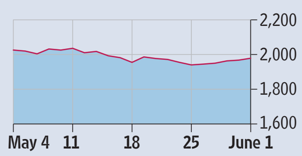


Dow Jones
33,061.57 (+153.30) ▲



COMMODITIES

Gold
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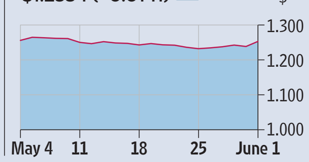


Brent crude (6pm)
$74.99 (+1.71) ▲

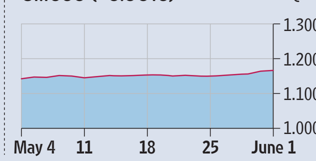


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Boeing ramps up production but supply chain issues set to linger

Callum Jones Charleston, South Carolina

Boeing is bracing itself for another 18 months of supply chain glitches as the US planemaker increases production.

Dave Calhoun, chief executive, acknowledged that the company had suffered because of failures and shortfalls across its "very large, very fragmented" base of suppliers. "A lot of wrestling matches" had been required to resolve problems in the aircraft manufacturer's supply chain, he told a press conference at its South Carolina production site. But Calhoun emphasised that there was little point in publicly rebuking the sources of issues. "We can't just get mad," he said.

Boeing, founded in 1916, is based in Arlington, Virginia. It builds commercial jets, military aircraft, missiles and space technology and has a stock market value of $124 billion.

The manufacturer has faced challenges this year and temporarily paused deliveries of aircraft including the 737 Max because of incorrectly installed parts, the 787 Dreamliner over documentation problems and the 767 freighter after improperly sealed fuel tanks were found.

It is now aiming to increase output. It plans to increase production of its best-selling 737 Max jets to about 50 per month by 2025, a rate not held since 2019 when the entire fleet was grounded and manufacturing was cut after two fatal crashes.

Global supply chains were rebuilding "slowly, steadily", Calhoun said, warning that it would take time — "probably until the end of next calendar year".

Many of the group's suppliers make one part, Calhoun added. "And they're the only supplier that makes that part. When they fall down or can't respond to a rate increase, we suffer but we have to stay disciplined; we have to work with it. We can't just get mad at them. We can't call them out in the press. We simply have to work with them . . . It's not numbers, our industry is not numbers. It's skills, it's talent, it's experience, it's people."

Robust demand from airlines will also lead to constraints for "five or six years, based on the orders that we're all seeing today", Calhoun added.

We will regain trust one plane at a time, vows Boeing, pages 40-41

UK deals fall to 7-year low as rates rise

Merger activity halves amid economic gloom

Helen Cahill

Activity in mergers and acquisitions in Britain is at its lowest level in seven years as dealmakers remain cautious about the economic outlook.

The total value of mergers and acquisitions involving UK companies has more than halved to $89 billion in the first five months of the year and the number of deals announced has dropped by 29 per cent, according to the deals intelligence team at the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG).

The mergers and acquisitions market has not experienced such a quiet start to the year since 2016.

The City had been hopeful of a more sustained increase in merger activity after an initial flurry of take-private deals were announced in April. Network International, THG, John Wood Group and others were targeted by private equity firms as the economic outlook became more positive and valuations remained attractive. The value of private equity-backed deals jumped from $1.8 billion to $8.8 billion in April as EQT launched its $6.6 billion tilt at Dechra Pharmaceuticals.

However, the pace of deals has cooled off and the approaches for THG and John Wood did not lead to acquisitions. The value of deals dropped back to $480 million last month.

It coincided with renewed uncertainty about the trajectory of inflation and interest rates. The UK's inflation rate remained stronger than expected in April. Financial markets started betting that the Bank of England would need to increase the cost of borrowing to almost 5.5 per cent by the end of the year.

It coincided with the UK competition watchdog increasingly flexing its muscles, which has triggered concerns over the country as a place to do business. In April the Competition and Markets Authority blocked Microsoft's planned $69 billion takeover of the gaming firm Activision Blizzard, which makes the *Call of Duty* video game.

The LSEG data shows that healthcare had the most activity of any sector, boosted by the EQT bid for Dechra.

Goldman Sachs, Rothschild & Co and Bank of America have been the most prolific investment banks for mergers and acquisitions so far this year. Goldman Sachs has worked on 18 deals, with a value of $12.9 billion, while Rothschild has been mandated on 37 deals, with a value of $11.8 billion. Bank of America has been brought in on nine deals, worth $10.8 billion.

The total value of deals announced globally declined by 42 per cent year on year to $1.1 trillion in the first five months of the year, according to the LSEG. The pandemic year was the only five-month period in the past decade to record a lower total. The number of deals dropped by 14 per cent to a three-year low of 21,301. In Europe the value of deals dropped by 57 per cent to a decade low of $191.4 billion,

Lucille Jones, an analyst at the LSEG, said: "Geopolitical tensions, volatile stock markets, interest rate hikes and the banking crisis have shaken boardroom confidence, [which was] already dented by fears of recession.

"Europe is seeing the biggest decline, with dealmaking at the lowest level in ten years as concerns about the broader economy continue to dampen the appetite for risk-taking — but overall, globally, dealmakers are cautious."

MIKE MARSLAND/GETTY IMAGES



Ellie Goulding promotes Velocity Black, which delivers experiences for the rich

Founders of club for rich bank $80m

James Hurley

The founders of a London-based luxury concierge start-up have each made tens of millions of pounds after their company was acquired by Capital One, the American financial services firm.

Capital One is understood to have agreed to pay $296 million for Velocity Black, an app-based membership "concierge" service for the wealthy.

The UK company, which helps members access travel, entertainment, shopping and dining experiences, was founded in 2014 by Zia Yusuf and Alex Macdonald, friends who met at the private Hampton School in west London.

Based on their equity holdings declared in public filings, Macdonald, 35, and Yusuf, 36, each stand to make more than $40 million from the transaction.

Yusuf left a job as an executive director at Goldman Sachs to start the company and told the Evening Standard in 2018 that he had quit after a mentor told him that his 24 years at the firm hadn't been worth the sacrifices.

His company makes money from membership fees and from transactions when members use the service. Exclusive experiences are said to have included tracking snow leopards in the Himalayas, flying fighter jets and training with ninjas in Japan.

Yusuf has said the company can help with anything "from planning round-the-world trips, to obtaining the most-sought-after luxury goods, a dinner that'll never be forgotten and original experiences like no other" and promises a rapid response to requests.

Membership is said to cost $2,800 a year and the service has been promoted by celebrities including the singers Ellie Goulding and Rita Ora, and the models Gigi Hadid and Poppy Delevingne.

The most recent set of accounts for Velocity Mobile, the holding company for Velocity Black, shows the average "basket size", a measure of online transactions, was $5,183 last year. The US is its largest market, followed by Britain. It made a pre-tax loss of £3.3 million in 2022, up from £2.6 million in 2021.

Need to know

1 House prices fell at their fastest annual rate for nearly 14 years last month, according to Nationwide. Prices are now 3.4 per cent below where they were a year ago, the biggest decline since the financial crisis in 2009. Page 2

2 Pennon Group, the owner of South West Water, which operates in one of only two regions in the country officially in drought, has raised its shareholder dividend by more than 10 per cent to £112 million despite reporting a loss and being fined for illegally dumping sewage. Page 14

3 Activity in mergers and acquisitions in Britain is at its lowest level in seven years as dealmakers remain cautious about the economic outlook. The total value of mergers and acquisitions involving UK companies has more than halved to $89 billion in the first five months of the year and the number of deals announced has fallen by 29 per cent. Page 33

4 Boeing is bracing itself for another 18 months of supply chain glitches as the US planemaker increases production. Dave Calhoun, chief executive, acknowledged that the company had suffered because of failures and shortfalls across its "very large, very fragmented" base of suppliers. Pages 33, 40-41

5 The founders of Velocity Black, a London-based luxury concierge start-up, have each made tens of millions of pounds after their company was acquired by Capital One, the American financial services firm. Page 33

6 Investors in Dr Martens headed for the exit as the "accident-prone" bootmaker revealed its profits had missed City expectations. The company's shares declined by 11.7 per cent as its US sales were knocked by a costly relocation of its distribution centre and "mistakes" in its marketing campaigns.

7 The president of the European Central Bank has warned that inflation in the single currency bloc remains too high, despite figures showing that consumer price growth had eased to its lowest in 14 months. Christine Lagarde said interest rates would need to rise further as there was no clear evidence that underlying inflationary pressures had peaked. Page 36

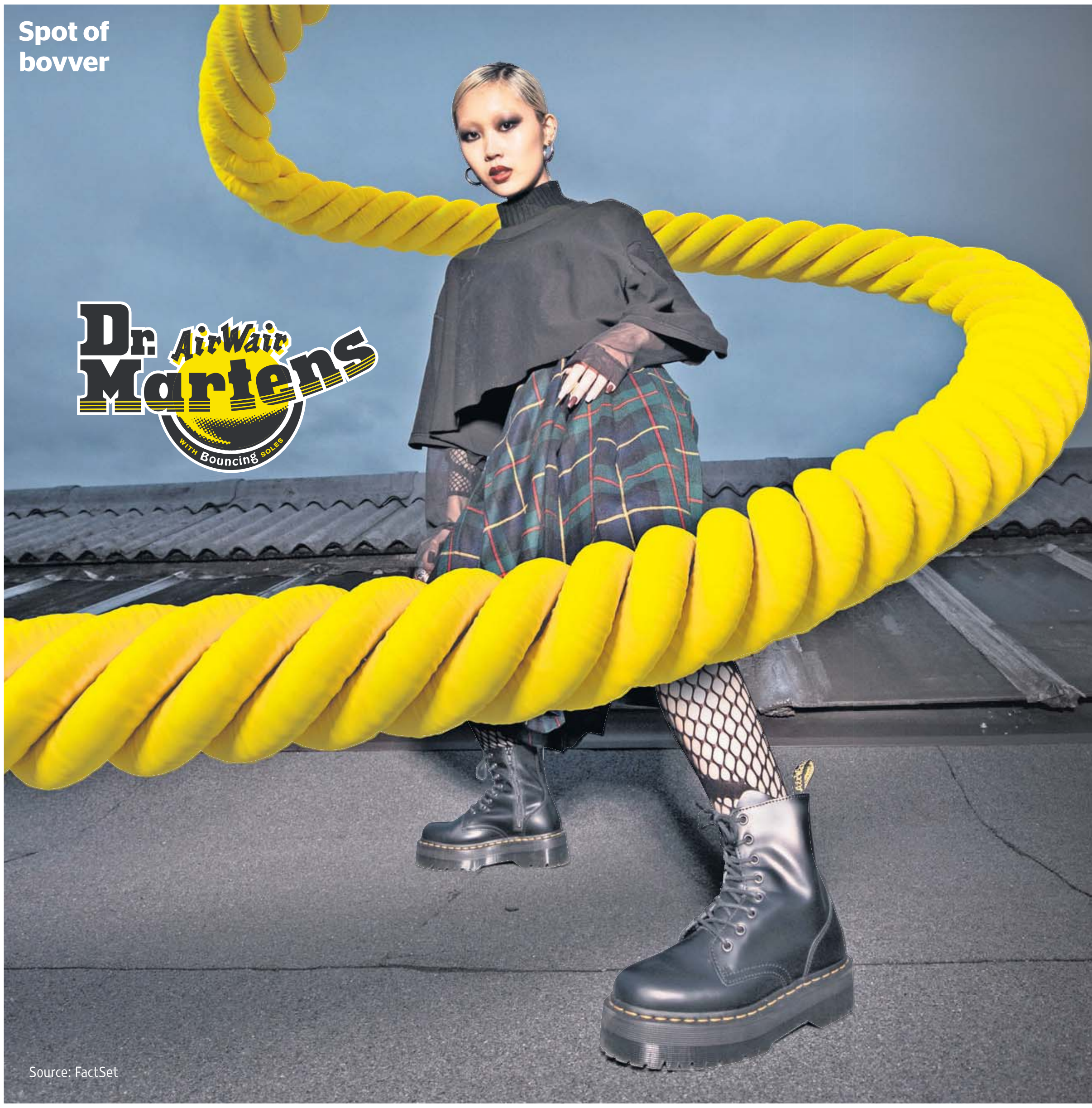
8 More people are putting their cars up for sale on Autotrader to drum up extra cash amid the cost of living crisis. The shortage of computer chips means fewer new vehicles are being made, fuelling demand for second-hand cars, with prices rising by 12 per cent in the past year. Page 38

9 Toys R Us is set to return to the UK high street for the first time since its collapse five years ago. The toy chain is reopening branches in nine WH Smith stores. Page 39

10 Tokamak Energy, which has its headquarters in Oxford, has secured funding from the US government to push ahead with its plan for a nuclear fusion power plant, and the prospect of developing abundant clean energy. Page 40

'Accident-prone' Dr Martens

Helen Cahill



Spot of bovver

Investors in Dr Martens headed for the exit as the "accident-prone" bootmaker revealed its profits had missed City expectations.

The FTSE 250 company's shares closed down 18¼p, or 11.7 per cent, at 138p as its US sales were knocked by a costly relocation of its distribution centre and "mistakes" in its marketing campaigns.

The British brand's boots have become a symbol of counter-culture fashion worldwide after they were initially designed to help a German soldier struggling with a broken foot.

Klaus Martens developed the boot's air-cushioned rubber sole to support his foot after a skiing accident. The Griggs family in Northamptonshire then bought the licence for the boot and built up the business into the cultural symbol it is today. The company now has 204 stores worldwide and trades from 29 concessions.

Kenny Wilson, Dr Martens' chief executive, had hoped that the boots' global appeal would help insulate the brand from a downturn in the UK economy. Dr Martens generates about half of its revenues in the US.

In November, he told The Times: "We are a British business but we're a global brand with the benefit of a diverse footprint."

However, Dr Martens chose not to focus on its most popular product in recent US marketing. The company instead prioritised its range of shoes and sandals in advertising. Dr Martens does not disclose its margins for individual products, but Wilson points out that the retail value of its boots is higher, with a pair selling for about £159, versus £99 for a sandal.

The US business was also hampered by the stockpiling of inventory it couldn't sell and "weak" footfall in three stores that contributed to an impairment charge of £3 million. The inventory backlog forced the company to open temporary warehouses, hitting wholesale revenues and incurring additional supply chain costs. US revenues declined by 1 per cent on a constant currency basis to £428.2 million, and were down by 13 per cent in the final three months of the financial year.

The FTSE 250 company told investors yesterday that profits before tax had fallen by 26 per cent for the year ended March 31 to £159 million. Total revenues rose by 10 per cent to £1 billion but the sales of its signature boots had declined by 10 per cent year on year. The company also said margins in the coming year would be "held back" by the investments required to avoid operational issues in the future.

Dr Martens launched a review of its operational issues in the US and is overhauling its reporting lines to make sure it has a better understanding of how the business is faring.

Wilson said: "We are fixing the issues in America, including a significant strengthening of the team there, and returning America to good growth is our number one operational priority."

Richard Taylor and Pallav Mittal, analysts at Barclays, said the outlook for the company's margins was "disappointing news" that would weigh on the share price.

They said: "The good news is that current trading is in line [with expectations], and revenue guidance for the 2024 financial year has not changed, albeit investors may be sceptical about this given the weakening macroeconomic backdrop.

"Dr Martens has been an accident-prone investment case in the past year and has issued optimistic guidance."

Piral Dadhania, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets, said the bootmaker was on course to see a decline in sales in the year ahead and that its revenue targets "may prove to be too optimistic".

Taylor and Mittal said investors would be looking for Dr Martens to "stabilise margins and build a track record" to improve the share price. The stock has fallen after a string of profit warnings in the past six months.

Finance chiefs expect inflation burden to ease

Mehreen Khan

British businesses expect lower inflation over the coming year, according to a Bank of England survey, potentially easing fears among policymakers that recent high price growth will persist.

A monthly survey of chief financial officers, carried out by the Bank in May, found that businesses expect to raise prices by 5.1 per cent over the coming year, down from 5.9 per cent in April's survey. This is the lowest since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February last year and well below the rise of 7.6 per cent recorded over the past 12 months.

"Businesses expect output price inflation to fall over the next year," said the Bank, whose survey covers more than 2,300 companies.

Consumer-facing companies have come under fire from critics for unduly raising their prices to protect profit margins, a term known as "greedflation". However, recent figures from the Office for National statistics has cast doubt on the theory, with data showing that corporate profit margins remained stable at the end of last year. The Bank has also said it has no evidence of significant margin increases from companies.

The Bank's survey found that companies expect consumer price inflation to be higher over the next year, averaging 5.9 per cent, compared with the 5.6 per cent recorded in April.

Three-year inflation expectations also rose to 3.5 per cent from 3.4 per cent. Inflation expectations among households, businesses and financial markets are closely watched by central bankers as a measure of their credibility and belief that they can control inflation.



Catherine Mann: pricing power has a lasting impact

Consumer price inflation fell last month to the lowest since August at 8.7 per cent, but core inflation strengthened at the fastest pace since 1991. Core inflation strips out volatile elements like food and energy to provide a better sense of the economy's domestic inflationary pressures.

Catherine Mann, an external member of the Bank's rate-setting committee, this week said that companies with high pricing power in a high inflationary environment would "use it".

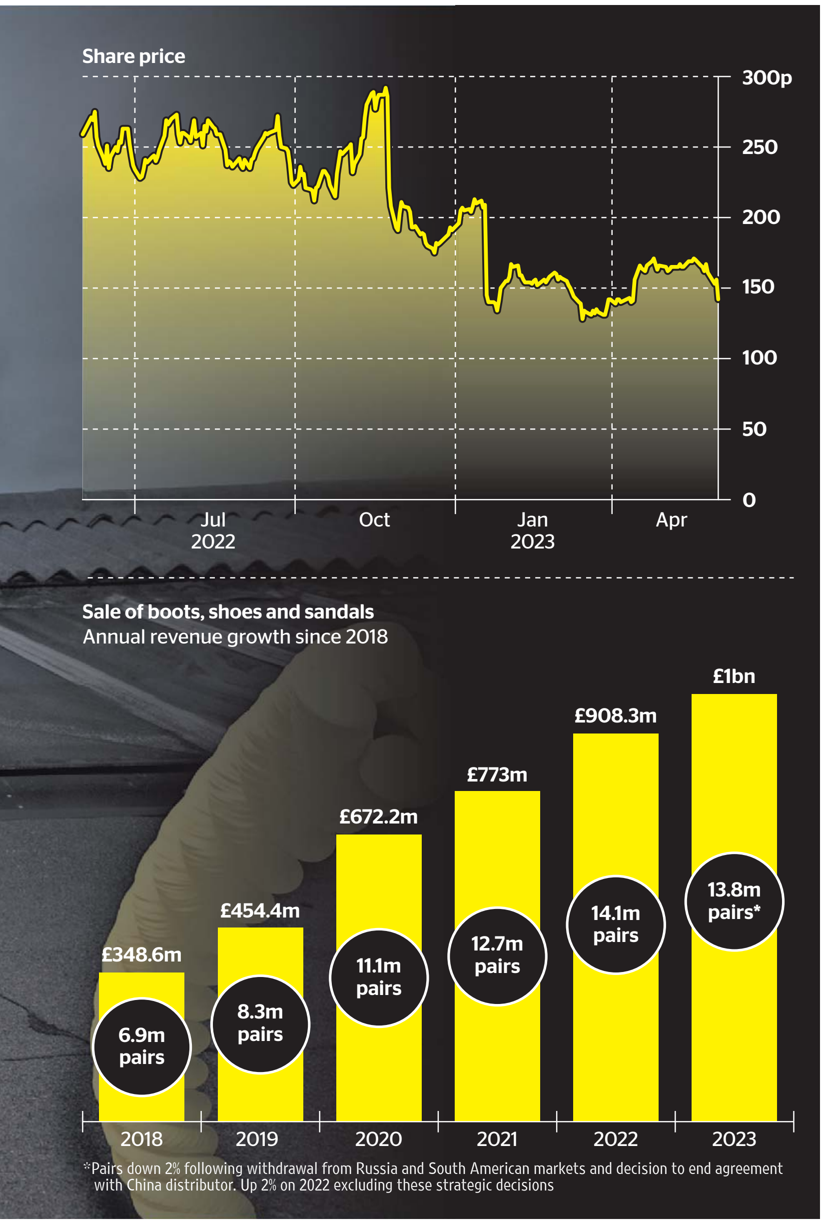
"Firms' pricing power will last longer [on inflation] than an energy shock," Mann said, adding that there was evidence that consumers who had built up savings were still spending on higher-priced items goods and services, keeping inflation higher for longer.

Food price inflation has surged by 19 per cent in recent months, and forced the government to haul in retailers for emergency talks over price rises.

Mann said that Britain had a worse inflation problem than the United States or the eurozone, with signs that high headline inflation may have led to a persistent upward shift in underlying price- and wage-setting patterns.

Prior to the pandemic, businesses surveyed by the Bank of England typically reported plans to raise prices and wages by about 2-3 per cent a year.

gets a kicking



*Pairs down 2% following withdrawal from Russia and South American markets and decision to end agreement with China distributor. Up 2% on 2022 excluding these strategic decisions

Dr Martens floated on the London Stock Exchange at 370p in January 2021 and initially rose to 500p. Permira, the private equity group behind the listing, has since sold down its stake from 75 per cent to 36 per cent.

Wilson announced a £50 million share buyback yesterday to return capital to shareholders, but Kate Calvert, an analyst at Investec, warned that a "better US performance [is] needed before sentiment improves".

Dr Martens has hired a number of new recruits in the US across digital, marketing and human resources, and is also recruiting a head of operations.

Wilson said: "This stronger team will support the America president in turning around performance … we have confidence in our plans to correct and revitalise the marketing programme, and to improve our technology implementation and website trading, with improvements expected from the second half of the 2024 financial year."

Tempus, page 42

Members who quit CBI denied vote on future

Times Business Reporter

Dozens of Britain's biggest firms whose departure from the CBI in the wake of allegations of rape and misconduct led to a vote on its future will not be allowed to take part in that ballot next week.

The CBI, under newly appointed director-general Rain Newton-Smith, said members, including those that had suspended their memberships, were invited to the meeting but those that had resigned were not. Members are set to vote on Tuesday on a prospectus that the organisation hopes can draw a line under the biggest crisis in its history.

The CBI had already said it would make changes after the allegations but did not promise an overhaul until dozens of members said they no longer wanted to be part of the organisation.

Now representatives from several companies — who asked to remain anonymous— said they had not been sent an invitation to Tuesday's meeting.

On Wednesday the CBI set out the new prospectus, which includes appointing a new president and giving members an annual vote on the make-up of its board. It said an external review had found it "under-prioritised people management skills", but rejected blanket descriptions of its culture as "toxic" or "misogynistic".



Rain Newton-Smith has outlined major changes to win back confidence

Next week members will be asked: "Do the changes we have made — and the commitments we have set out — to reform our governance, culture, and purpose give you the confidence you need to support the CBI?" The vote needs more than 50 per cent to pass — with members getting one vote each.

After the second rape allegation appeared in The Guardian in April, dozens of members said they would withdraw from the group and the CBI suspended its membership and policy activities pending Tuesday's meeting.

The CBI could also cut a number of its 300-strong staff in moves to reduce its wage bill by a third, according to the newspaper.

Broadcom plays down impact of AI boom

Callum Jones
US Business Correspondent

The American chipmaker Broadcom has forecast steady growth in the current quarter after blockbuster guidance from Nvidia, its rival, underlined how the artificial intelligence boom is boosting demand for semiconductors.

Broadcom, like other manufacturers across the sector, is benefiting from the surge in interest in AI, and robust corporate spending on related technology. Profits at the business rose by a third in the latest quarter.

Nvidia fleetingly became the first chip company to clinch a market valuation of $1 trillion this week following its latest earnings, which included "blowout" guidance for its second quarter. The group has placed itself at the heart of the race to develop AI tools by becoming the main source of chips behind chatbots such as OpenAI's ChatGPT.

Broadcom guided investors to expect revenue of about $8.85 billion in the current quarter, which would amount to growth of about 4.6 per cent on the same period last year. This was modestly ahead of the $8.7 billion projected by analysts. Nvidia forecast that its quarterly revenue is set to almost double to $11 billion, far exceeding expectations.

Shares in Broadcom retreated by 1.8 per cent, or $13.95, to $776 during out-of-hours trading in New York last night. They rose sharply last week following Nvidia's results, which stoked investor demand for chipmaking stocks. Nvidia closed up by 5.1 per cent, or $19.36, at $397.70 in normal trading hours.

Revenue at Broadcom rose by 8 per cent in the second quarter, which ran to April 30, broadly in line with expectations on Wall Street. Net income increased by 34 per cent to $3.48 billion.

Hock Tan, president and chief executive of Broadcom, said: "Broadcom's second-quarter results were driven by demand for next generation technologies from hyperscale, while enterprise and service providers continued to sustain. Our third-quarter outlook projects year-over-year growth, reflecting continued leadership in networking as we support a measured ramp into large-scale AI networks."

Broadcom was founded as a private company in 1961 and floated in 1998. The group, based in San Jose, California, is one of the world's biggest chipmakers, with a market valuation of $331 billion. Regulators are scrutinising its proposed $61 billion takeover of the cloud computing company VMware amid concern that the deal risks restricting competition in the market for certain hardware components.

Docs smarting at profit margins



BUSINESS COMMENTARY *Alistair Osborne*

Some things are too punk even for Dr Martens. Take January's *Anarchy in the USA* routine. The shock to investors wasn't just the chaos at its new Los Angeles distribution centre, or the profits warning it triggered, but what it said about the management of the footwear group.

The LA "bottleneck" had been going on for months, thanks to a triple whammy of half-brained decisions by local managers. The chief executive, Kenny Wilson, admitted that he had only learnt of the problems days before he was forced to rush out his profits alert: a gruesome update that sent the shares down 31 per cent to 145p.

The United States is the group's biggest market, worth 43 per cent of sales on the latest full-year figures, so it was an admission that left Wilson on the back foot. Or rather, even more than he already was, given that he is running a business that had been priced for perfection — the legacy of 2021's toppy 370p-a-share float that raised zip for the firm but £1.5 billion for the owners, the private equity firm Permira.

So, given all that, plenty was riding on the latest figures. Wilson had declared the LA fiasco "operationally fixed" in April but investors still wanted an update on how much it had cost and reassurance that Docs had found no other way to give them a kicking.

Did Wilson deliver? Well, up to a point. He proved there was no lack of demand for its boots, with sales up 10 per cent to top the £1 billion mark for the first time — despite its US screw-ups. But the "bad news is that the margin outlook is worse than we expected", as Barclays analysts put it: the cue for a 12 per cent drop in the shares to 138p.

Wilson warned that ebitda margins for this year will be "one to two points lower" than the latest 24.5 per cent — already down 4.5 points on the previous year. That's due to the £15 million costs of keeping three temporary warehouses open in LA to deal with the boot mountain that its new distribution centre couldn't handle, plus £20 million to "professionalise" the business. Add back the depreciation and amortisation that ebitda ignores, plus a forex hit, and pre-tax profits also missed forecasts — down 26 per cent to £159 million.

The question is whether, if you look through the recent blunders, this remains a company laced with promise. Having written here before that it's cobblers to call Docs a bad business, Wilson has been testing patience lately. However, he's admitted he made "operational mistakes" and has changed the US management.

And there was stuff to like about the figures: 52 per cent of revenues are now higher margin direct-to-consumer sales, via Docs' shops or website rather than wholesalers. There is also plenty to go for if he can replicate Britain's per capita sales. They're twice the level of the US and nine times that of Japan.

Still, giving the shares a kick in the right direction will require more than a £50 million buyback and a same-again final dividend. It involves Docs losing its reputation as "an accident-prone investment case", as Barclays put it. Wilson says "that's our goal for the next financial year". He'll need more than 12 months of that before investors start filling their boots.

Round the houses

No one could get through a whole month without an update on house prices. So, what a blessing that Nationwide is always on hand with the figures. The latest one is a socking 0.1 per cent drop in May, which once the chief economist Robert Gardner lobs in his "base effects" (don't ask) translates into a year-on-year price fall of 3.4 per cent. For those who enjoy house price heebie-jeebies, that's the fastest 12-month fall in the 14 years since the financial crisis.

Even so, the roof has hardly caved in. Prices are now 4 per cent below last August's peak — just before Kwasi Kwarcrash rolled out his mini-budget. True, they may have further to fall — Capital Economics reckons another 8 per cent — now the Bank of England's "transitory" inflation is proving more permanent than the deluded governor Andrew Bailey thought, with more rate rises likely to hit mortgage affordability.

Still, everyone knows this script. Once rates fall, prices will rebound — because Britain doesn't build enough homes and has a housing shortage. Shamefully, Rishi Sunak allowed nimby Tory MPs to kybosh mandatory targets for local authorities, without which there can't even be a proper appeals process for new developments. The result? Britain will be lucky to build 150,000 new homes this year, not enough to accommodate necessary immigration, let alone a generation priced off the housing ladder.

Expecting the young to fund homeowners' pensions while pricing them out of the market is a route to societal damage. A ramp up in housebuilding should be a key election issue. Debating a 0.1 per cent price shift is irrelevant.

Unjust deserts

Drought everywhere at Pennon. Except, of course, for its dividend gushers. The owner of South West Water has just sprayed investors with a £112 million full-year payout, up 10.9 per cent, in line with its policy to pay 2 per cent more than CPI inflation including housing costs. Was that their reward for the £8.5 million pre-tax losses? Or for the firm being investigated by Ofwat over the accuracy of its info on leaks? Or for the £2.1 million fine from the Environment Agency for "pollution offences"?

Yes, the chief executive Susan Davy has upped investment by 50 per cent to £358 million. And, without dividends, Pennon wouldn't have any investors — but there's something wrong with the regulatory regime when the shareholder payout is 53 times bigger than the latest fine.

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Inflation hasn't peaked so expect further rate rises, Lagarde warns

Mehreen Khan Economics Editor

The president of the European Central Bank has warned that inflation in the single currency bloc remains too high, despite figures showing that consumer price growth had eased to the lowest in 14 months.

Christine Lagarde said interest rates would need to rise further as there was no clear evidence that underlying inflationary pressures have peaked.

"We need to continue our hiking cycle until we are sufficiently confident that inflation is on track to return to our target in a timely manner," she said yesterday.

Official figures showed that inflation in the 20-country bloc declined to 6.1 per cent in May, from 7 per cent in April, the lowest rate since March 2022 and in line with economists' forecasts. A closely watched measure of core inflation also eased to the lowest in four months, according to figures from Eurostat.

Core inflation, which excludes food and energy and is used as a more accurate measure of underlying inflationary pressures in an economy, was 5.3 per cent last month after hitting 5.6 per cent in March, the weakest rate since January.

Lagarde, however, said "there is no clear evidence that underlying inflation has peaked". She added: "Labour markets across the euro area are tight and workers have considerable bargaining power, which they are starting to use to recoup these losses."

The unemployment rate fell again to a record low of 6.5 per cent in the eurozone, raising concerns that wage growth will remain high even as the economy starts to slow.

Rising core inflation in the UK, eurozone and the US has led to expectations of more interest rate rises this summer after monetary policy was tightened at the fastest global pace in 30 years in 2022.

Despite the drop in inflation last month, money markets still expect the ECB to increase borrowing costs again this month.

Jack Allen-Reynolds at Capital Economics said the jobs markets would mean that "the core inflation rate will come down only slowly and it will be a long time before it hits the ECB's 2 per cent".

He said: "We still think the ECB will raise interest rates by 0.25 percentage points at its meeting on June 15 and probably once more at the July meeting."

Lagarde said: "Inflation is too high and it is set to remain so for too long. That is why we have hiked rates at our fastest pace ever and we have made clear that we still have ground to cover to bring interest rates to sufficiently restrictive levels."

The ECB has raised borrowing costs less than the Bank of England and US Federal Reserve, tightening borrowing costs by 325 basis points since last July. By contrast, the Fed is likely to pause on more increases as of this month, while the UK central bank is on course to raise rates from the current 4.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent, according to money markets.

The eurozone's overall drop in inflationary pressures came after figures from major economies such as France, Germany, and Italy showed welcome falls in the rate of price growth last month. Headline consumer prices in Germany dipped from 7.2 per cent to 6.1 per cent while inflation in France declined to 5.1 per cent from 5.9 per cent. Inflation in Italy eased to 7.6 per cent from 8.2 per cent.

Energy prices were a drag on inflation last month, helping reduce annual price growth by nearly 2 percentage points after wholesale gas prices declined to pre-Ukraine war levels this year.

Food, alcohol, and tobacco prices were the biggest contributors to inflation, rising by 12.5 per cent in May compared with the same month last year.

The slowdown in inflation comes after data has pointed to a softening in the eurozone's growth prospects.

Survey data from Germany showed the fastest decline in the country's manufacturing sector in three years on the back of falling exports and a weakening global economy.

The eurozone's biggest economy fell into a technical recession at the start of the year and has suffered as a result of its dependence on Russian oil and gas.



MICHAEL MATTHEY/DPA

Christine Lagarde says workers in the eurozone are using their bargaining power to push for wage rises in tight labour markets

UK factory output hit by lack of new orders

Arthi Nachiappan
Economics Correspondent

The downturn in the manufacturing sector accelerated in May as new orders dried up and output contracted, a closely watched survey showed.

The purchasing managers' index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global and the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply, fell to a four-month low of 47.1 last month, down from 47.8 in April. A reading of 50 separates a growing sector from one in decline.

There was a deterioration in all the survey components, including output, new orders, employment, stock levels and supplier lead times. New work for businesses fell at their fastest pace in four months, according to the survey of 650 manufacturers conducted between May 11 and May 25. Some respondents said that the economic slowdown and subdued market confidence had led to a decline in new business.

New export orders dropped for a 16th consecutive month in May. There were reports of weaker intakes of new work from the United States and Europe, which were linked to rising international competition and, in the case of the EU, customers switching to local sources to avoid post-Brexit trade and transportation complications, the survey found.

Manufacturers benefited, however, from the first fall in the average cost of their inputs, which includes components and raw materials, in three and a half years.

Martin Beck, chief economic adviser to the EY Item Club, said: "Manufacturers remained upbeat about expectations of future business activity, reflecting hopes of a more favourable cost environment and a recovery in demand."

Beck added that the sector would face challenges in the short term "until falling inflation helps to reduce the squeeze on household and corporate budgets later this year".

Rob Dobson, director at S&P Global market intelligence, said: "Manufacturers are finding that any potential boost to production from improving supply chains is being completely negated by weak demand, client destocking and a general shift in spending in the UK away from goods to services.

"Although near-term conditions remain challenging, manufacturers are still finding reasons for optimism, including brighter news on the price and supply fronts. The recent healing in global supply chains is also continuing apace, with lead times shortening to a near record extent in May."

Clinton's Treasury secretary predicts hard times ahead for Britain

Robert Miller

A former US Treasury secretary has said he would be "very surprised" if Britain managed to avoid a recession in the next two years.

Larry Summers, who served under President Clinton between 1999 and 2001, described the UK's economic policy as having been "substantially flawed for some years", adding that Brexit was a "historic economic error" that had damaged growth and helped to drive up inflation.

"I think Brexit will be remembered as a historic economic error that reduced the competitiveness of the UK economy, put downward pressure on the pound and upwards pressure on prices, limited imports of goods and limited in some ways the supply of labour — all of which contributed to higher inflation," he told *Today* on BBC Radio 4.

Summers, 68, who was also director of the National Economic Council under President Obama between 2009 and 2010, said this combination of errors was "reinforced by very ill-judged monetary policy," he added, which was "too expansionary for too long".

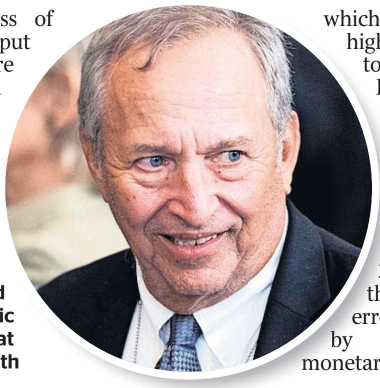
However, Summers said he believed that the Bank of England should stick with its policy of raising interest rates. He argued that a pause in increasing the cost of borrowing, even in the face of the current cost of living crisis, could mean "a recurrence of the underlying infection" of rampant inflation.

"Usually when you're prescribed a course of medication, even if the drugs are not so pleasant themselves, and even if they possibly have some side effects, it's usually better to take the whole course of medicine, the first time it's prescribed than to stop taking the medicine early," he said.

The Bank's nine-strong monetary policy committee has increased rates at every meeting since December 2021, taking the base rate from its pandemic low of 0.1 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

Most economists are expecting a further increase to 4.75 per cent later this month.

"It's going to be very difficult to eliminate that entrenched inflation without a significant slowdown in the economy," Summers, who is a Harvard University professor, added.



Larry Summers said Brexit was a "historic economic error" that had damaged growth

Harry Wallop



Dog food bosses who eat their own goods are barking up the right tree

It is possibly the most cringe-making minute in US corporate history. Steve Ballmer, then boss of Microsoft, storms the stage at a conference and proceeds to dance like a demented bullfrog. "Woooah," he screams and hollers, sweat running down his face, before coming to a panting halt, eyes bulging.

"I have four words for you: I. Love. This. Company."

This grainy video, still available to watch on YouTube, was filmed back in 2000 and at the time it seemed to neatly encapsulate all that was wrong with American capitalism: an all-consuming, irony-free juggernaut that trampled everything in its path and expected blind devotion from those who received its pay cheques. Be deeply suspicious of any bosses who claim to love their own company with such zeal, I thought.

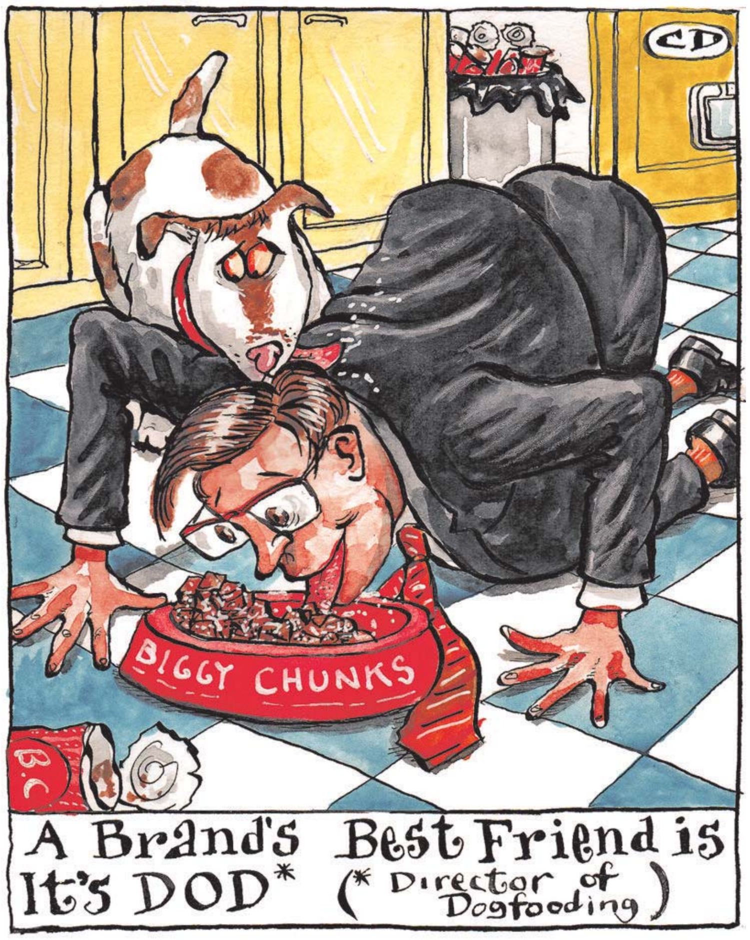
That, however, was a generation ago. We now live in a world of fickleness. Consumers no longer profess deep loyalty to any bank, airline, supermarket or software package and workers are increasingly happy to flit between employers on an almost annual basis.

Maybe devotion is no longer cause for such scepticism. I was thinking about this as I read an interview with Stuart Machin, the chief executive of Marks and Spencer, following on from the company's results last week, which suggested that its clothing division might finally be back on track. One detail from his chat with The Mail on Sunday caught my eye: he is the third biggest individual shopper of M&S menswear.

I have called the company to ascertain how much Machin spends on M&S Supima cotton briefs, but unsportingly they refuse to divulge. Considering, however, that M&S has 6.9 per cent of the £12.1 billion UK menswear market, according to GlobalData, I am going to presume that to rank as its third most loyal customer requires spending well in excess of £1,000 or even £2,000 on M&S threads each year.

Is this unhinged? I am not sure it is.

In the American software industry there is a particularly ugly phrase used to describe testing one's own products: "dogfooding". Executives believe that the only way to find out about their merchandise is to



consume it themselves. On LinkedIn you will find quite a few people with the job title: dogfooding co-ordinator or dogfooding specialist, invariably working for Meta.

I remember laughing about this with Henrietta Morrison, the chief executive of Lily's Kitchen, an upmarket dog food brand. To my horror, she said that she regularly ate her own products, proving that every business metaphor is only one step away from a foul reality. She made me try a tin of Three Bird Feast. It tasted less disgusting than I thought, like cheap, rather bland and gritty pâté. She, though, was in raptures. Grant Reid, the former head of Mars, which makes pet food as well as chocolate, was a dogfooder too, always claiming that Cesar was his favourite brand.

Sometimes you really do need to fully understand your product. When Rupert Soames was running Serco he regularly travelled by sleeper train between London and Scotland (a service operated by Serco). He said he once had a "rather nasty, itchy sensation" after new bed linen was introduced. This turned out to be fire retardant on the sheets, which Soames was able to detect because, as he explained, in his family "we don't wear pyjamas".

Catherine Powell, the Briton who is head of hosting at Airbnb, has recently put her own property in California on the holiday let platform, explaining, "it would be really embarrassing" if she did not have five stars. She claimed last month that after only four guests she still had an unblemished record, but despite some assiduous snooping I cannot find her Santa Monica guesthouse on the platform to see if any guests have complained about her itchy sheets.

When Sir Terry Leahy, the former chief executive of Tesco, was asked if his wife Alison had ever shopped at Waitrose, he said: "Occasionally, but I would complain so much that she wouldn't bother."

He added: "I bribed my children to sort of inform on Alison if ever she popped in to Waitrose when she picked up the kids from school."

If you are being paid vast sums of money to make and sell us products that you claim are great value, or delicious, or guaranteed to make you or your pet's life better, should you not be willing to consume them yourself? Of course Leahy could afford to get his breakfast cereal from Waitrose, or frankly Fortnum & Mason, but your job as chief executive is partly to be chief cheerleader for your company.

A lot, however, rests on your authenticity. When Lord Rose of Monewden ran M&S he ensured that on the day of the annual results he would dress top to toe, or nearly, in M&S knowing that he would be questioned by the press. He kept quiet about the expensive silk socks he bought from the French fashion house Fogal and the Italian leather shoes but you could sense, somehow, that this was partly an act — that he wore an M&S suit because he did not want to be caught out, not because he genuinely believed in the superiority of its tailoring.

In an era when most of a young person's social media feed is made up of influencers spouting guff about the wonders of particular face creams, pyjamas and protein shakes in return for cold hard cash we thirst for genuine fandom. The story of the Hollywood duo Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney buying Wrexham football club has caught the imagination because their enthusiasm for the small Welsh team seems genuine and unvarnished.

If you are the boss, do you need to scream about your love for your company? No. But I expect you to buy its products.

Harry Wallop is a consumer journalist and broadcaster. Follow him on Twitter @hwallop

Resist lure of private suits, Woodford victims told

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

Burnt investors in Neil Woodford's principal fund are being advised by the City regulator to drop private lawsuits and vote in favour of the official compensation deal of up to £235 million.

Invitations to join private litigation schemes were being "dangled" by self-interested parties promising an "unrealistic return", according to Therese Chambers, joint enforcement director at the Financial Conduct Authority.

She said it was in the best interests of the 300,000 investors in the Woodford Equity Income Fund to seriously consider the FCA-brokered compensation deal, which offered them 77p in every pound of losses they incurred as a result of becoming trapped in the fund after its gating in June 2019.

Chambers did not name the lawsuits but at least three have been launched against Link Fund Solutions (LFS), the authorised corporate director to the fund, including by the law firms Harcus Parker, Leigh Day and RGL.

Investors are due to vote on the scheme of arrangement, including the compensation package, later this year.

"The proposed scheme offers investors the quickest and best chance to obtain a better outcome than might be achieved by any other means," Chambers said in a speech.

"I notice that there has been some self-interested criticism about this, and the suggestion dangled that there could be greater financial settlements if victims join a private litigation fund. This promises an unrealistic return."

The gating and later the closure and liquidation of the fund after it got into severe difficulty investing in unlisted shares in 2019 led to a public outcry and questions in parliament. Woodford had previously been a stockpicking star and managed more than £10 billion of assets before his fall.

The compensation pot includes the proceeds of the proposed sale of LFS to Waystone Group, plus a £60 million "voluntary payment" by Link Group, its Australian listed parent. Chambers said that payment would not be available if the deal was not approved.

Leigh Day, which represents about 13,000 investors, said: "The discussions between Link and the FCA have been kept confidential. It is not possible in those circumstances for us to properly assess this potential redress.

"As soon as we know the terms of the proposal, we will be able to advise our clients what this means for them."

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Business

AutoTrader rides high on booming used car market

Tom Howard

More people are putting their cars up for sale on AutoTrader to drum up extra cash amid the cost of living crisis.

The shortage of computer chips is stopping car manufacturers from building as many new vehicles as they would like, which has fuelled demand for second-hand cars, with prices rising by 12 per cent over the past year, AutoTrader estimated.

Nathan Coe, the online marketplace's chief executive, said there had been an increase in the number of private sellers looking to cash in on the supply-demand imbalance. "What we tend to see is private [listings] will do well when economic conditions start to get strained," Coe, 44, said.

"Selling your car privately is the best way to get the most money for it and with the cost of living crisis, people are more willing to do a bit more work to get that extra £500 or £600 for their car."

The rise in private listings more than offset a drop in adverts for new cars from 29,000 in 2021 to 25,000 over the past 12 months. In total, 437,000 vehicles were listed for sale on Autotrader last year, a rise of 2 per cent.

Despite the uncertain economic backdrop, Coe said there remained a healthy demand for new and used cars, with vehicles on the site selling quicker than since before its stock market debut in 2015. It is taking, on average, 30 days for a car listed on the AutoTrader marketplace to be bought.

"It has alway been true that people don't look at cars as being discretionary spend, they see them as a necessity, whether that's to get the kids to school or to get to work," Coe said.

AutoTrader is the Rightmove of the car world, making its money from the nearly 14,000 retail forecourts that it charges to advertise their wares. Unusually for a company worth close to £6 billion, it employs only about 1,000 people, many of whom are well-paid software engineers.

The FTSE 100 company reported a 16 per cent rise in revenue to £500.2 million in the 12 months to the end of March, in part because of price rises and extra services, such as more prominent listings or greater data insights, that it managed to push to its customers. However, pre-tax profits slipped 2 per cent to £293.6 million, from £301 million in 2021. The fall was brought on by its acquisition last summer of Autorama, a marketplace for leased cars, which Coe believes will grow in popularity.

Autorama racked up a loss of £11.2 million last year and Autotrader also booked costs relating to the acquisition of £44.1 million.

Operating profits within the core AutoTrader business rose 10 per cent to £332.9 million, as it maintained its enviable 70 per cent profit margin.

AutoTrader returned £225 million to shareholders in the form of £147.3 million of buybacks and dividends of £77.7 million. The dividend for the past year, to be paid in September, is rising from 5.5p to 5.6p.

Shares in the company fell 21½p, or 3.4 per cent, to 608½p, although they remain almost a fifth above where they began the year.

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Macy's feels squeezed as belts tighten

THE TIMES
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Off switch
Management guru Lynda Gratton explores the need to disconnect in a world where technology has made it easy for office-based employees to work from anywhere, at any time

Winging it
Richard Thacker, the founder of chicken wing festival Wing Fest, on why Derby is brilliant and whether events can work as part-day sessions rather than whole day affairs

Pills and spills
High street pharmacies could play a key role in clearing the NHS backlog, but they need investment if they are to step up, argues Santosh Sahu, founder of software firm Charac

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The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York — sales have fallen at the department store chain as US consumer spending slows down

Macy's has downgraded its annual profit and sales forecasts as the American department store chain uses discounts to clear stock amid slowing consumer demand (Callum Jones writes).

Weakening discretionary spending has forced the business, which owns both Macy's and Bloomingdale's, to introduce extra promotions in an effort to shift excess inventory in time for summer.

Shares in Macy's fell sharply in pre-market trading in New York, but reversed those losses later and closed up 16 cents, or 1.2 per cent, at $13.75.

There are signs of a significant slowdown in consumer spending across the world's largest economy, where fears of recession continue to loom large. Leading US retailers such as Target and Home Depot have issued cautious guidance. Total net sales at Macy's dropped 7 per cent to $4.98 billion in the three months to April 29, its first quarter. Net income almost halved, from $286 million to $155 million.

Profits beat expectations on Wall Street, although sales fell short. The company cut its guidance for annual net sales from between $23.7 billion and $24.2 billion to between $22.8 billion and $23.2 billion.

It also reduced its forecast for adjusted profits.

The revision amounted to a "cautious approach" to the rest of the year, Macy's said, adding: "On the low end, updated guidance assumes macro pressures on the consumer worsen. The high end assumes heightened macro pressures experienced in mid-March through April persist.

"Additionally, it incorporates the second quarter markdown actions the company is taking to clear out spring transitional and early summer categories to support clean end-of-quarter inventories."

Jeff Gennette, chairman and chief executive, said: "We planned the year assuming that the economic health of the consumer would be challenged, but starting in late March, demand trends weakened further in our discretionary categories. We have moved quickly to take the appropriate actions to meet current consumer demand and manage our expenses.

"Our revised guidance reflects incremental clearance markdowns to address excess spring seasonal merchandise in the second quarter, along with adjustments to the category composition and inventory levels in the back half of the year."

Later in the day, however, Lululemon Athletica bucked the gloomy retail mood and raised its annual sales and profit forecasts, betting on strong demand for its activewear from affluent US shoppers and a recovery in China, sending its shares up 13.4 per cent, or $44.10 to $372.01 in after-hours trading on Wall Street.

Back in play: Toys R Us returns to the high street

Helen Cahill

Toys R Us is set to return to the UK high street for this first time since its collapse five years ago.

The toy chain is reopening branches in nine WH Smith stores over the coming weeks after maintaining its business in Australia and New Zealand following its UK exit.

Toys R Us shut its network of 100 stores in 2018 as it faced resistance from the pensions regulator over a £30 million deficit in its pension scheme.

The retailer sought approval from the Pension Protection Fund for a plan to cut its liabilities with a company voluntary agreement (CVA), which required the approval of 75 per cent of its creditors. Toys R Us aimed to close 26 stores and reduce rents at many of the remaining outlets in a move impacting 500 jobs.

However, the protection fund refused to back the arrangement unless the company made a £10 million contribution to its pension scheme. Toys R Us eventually agreed to contribute £3.8 million in 2018 and £6 million between 2019 and 2020.

But Toys R Us struggled to grow sales after the CVA and it was unable to meet a £15 million tax bill in February 2018. It ultimately fell into full administration with the loss of 3,000 jobs.

The chain will now open its new stores over the summer after launching a website in 2022. The first new store will open on Saturday, June 10 at WH Smith's Monks Cross retail park store in York, and further outlets will follow in Canterbury, Chelmsford, Cheltenham, Cwmbran, Oxford, Poole, Reading and Solihull.

Sean Toal, managing director of WH Smith, said: "The brand has long been known for its exceptional range of toys and games and complements our existing offer well.

"Across each of the nine locations, we have a great team of colleagues who look forward to welcoming many new and existing customers over the coming weeks and showcasing the new store layout, and not forgetting Geoffrey the Giraffe."

US approval for AstraZeneca treatment

James Hurley

AstraZeneca said its drug combination has been approved by the authorities in the United States for the treatment of prostate cancer.

The FTSE 100 drugs group said that the combination of its Lynparza drug, mixed with abiraterone, a hormonal therapy drug, and the steroid prednisone, or just prednisone, can now be used in the US on adult patients with certain forms of the disease. The approval was based on an analysis which showed that Lynparza with abiraterone "demonstrated highly clinically meaningful improvements" in survival rates.

Prostate cancer is the second-most common cancer in men and despite more therapies becoming available, five-year survival remains low, the Anglo-Swedish drugmaker said. Prostate cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer death in men globally, with an incidence of 1.4 million and 375,000 deaths in 2020.

Male sex hormones called androgens, including testosterone, often drive the development of the disease.

In patients with metastatic prostate cancer, which the drug combination is aimed at, the cancer spreads to other parts of the body despite treatment to block the action of male sex hormones.

The combination is already approved in the European Union and several other countries, including the UK, to treat certain forms of the cancer.

> **375,000**
> **Deaths from prostate cancer worldwide in 2020**
> Source: AstraZeneca

Dave Fredrickson, executive vice-president of AstraZeneca's oncology business unit, said: "We look forward to bringing the benefit of this combination to patients earlier in their treatment."

The business also announced that it will stop developing Brazikumab, its drug for treating inflammatory bowel diseases, including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Enrolment in clinical trials had been hit by the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The decision followed a review of the development timeline for the drug, which has been affected "by delays that could not be mitigated following global events. No safety concerns were identified for patients in these trials."

AstraZeneca regained the rights to Brazikumab from Allergan, an American, Irish-domiciled pharmaceutical company, in 2020 following US drugmaker AbbVie's $63 billion acquisition of Allergan. AbbVie, whose Skyrizi also treats Crohn's disease, contributed to funding of the programme, but this funding will cease, AstraZeneca said.

AstraZeneca is Britain's largest company by market valuation, with headquarters in Cambridge. It operates in more than 100 countries.

Its shares closed up 10p, or 0.1 per cent, at £116.70.

Butt the biggest winner as Silchester pays out £58m

Ben Martin

The fund management veteran who co-founded the Silchester investment business paid himself at least £31 million last year, cementing his status as one of Britain's top stock pickers.

Silchester Partners distributed £58 million in dividends in the year to March 31, accounts show, of which about £31 million would have gone to Stephen Butt and his wife, Caroline.

Butt also receives a share of the £101 million in profits that Silchester International Investors, another part of the group, although the split between its 16 partners has not been disclosed.

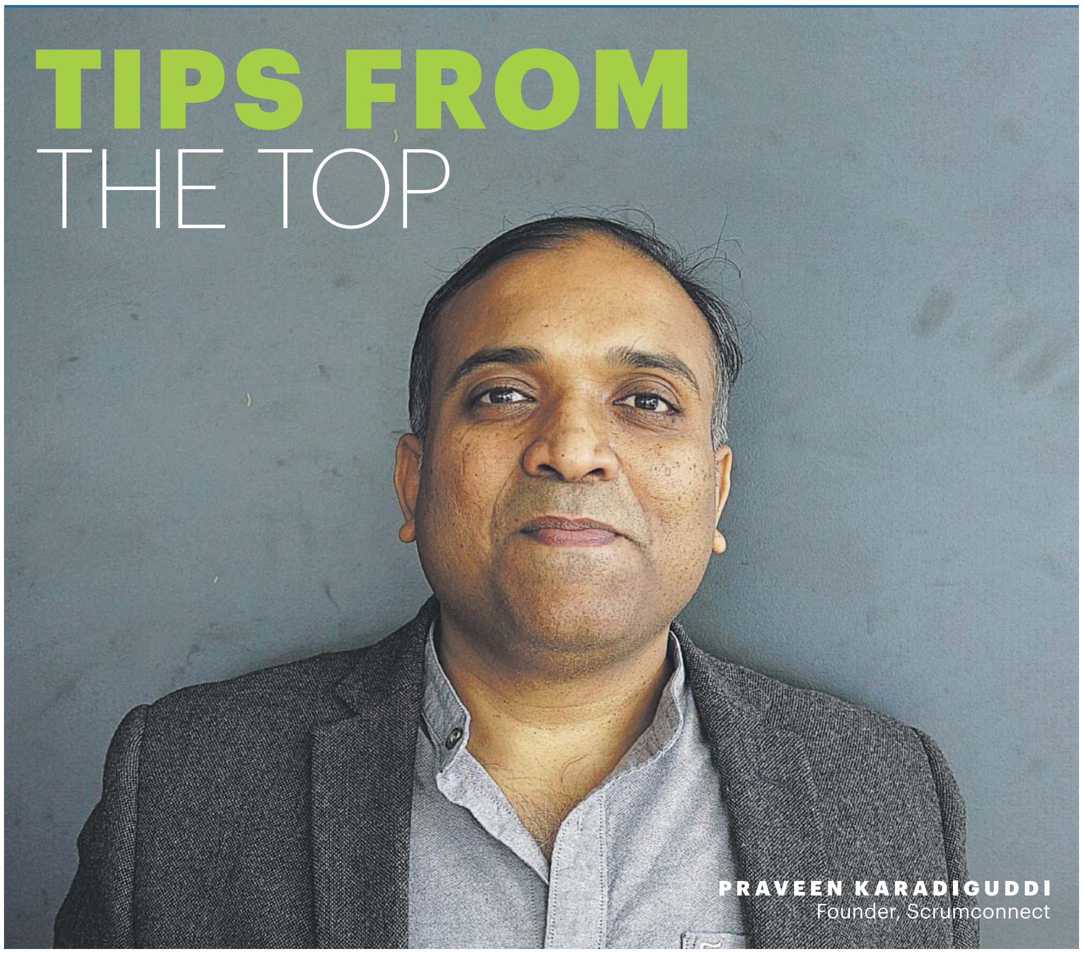
Based in Mayfair, Silchester was set up 29 years ago by Butt and a group of his former colleagues from Morgan Stanley. It manages assets of about £32 billion including significant stakes in a range of London-listed companies including Kingfisher, which owns B&Q, WPP, the world's biggest advertising group, and Jupiter Fund Management.

The Butt family have used their wealth for philanthropic causes. Their Calleva Foundation was an early backer of the Covid-19 vaccine developed by the University of Oxford. It has also funded research at the National History Museum and Kew Gardens.

Pre-tax profits at Silchester Partners rose to £153.6 million, from £147.9 million in 2022, the accounts show. The group manages money for institutions including pension schemes and it is a long-only investor in equities, which means it seeks to profit from rising share prices and does not short stocks to make money from falls in value.

Silchester has been an activist investor in the past. In 2021 it intervened in the battle for Wm Morrison Supermarkets, which was eventually sold to Clayton Dubilier & Rice, a US private equity firm, for £7 billion.

TIPS FROM THE TOP



PRAVEEN KARADIGUDDI
Founder, Scrumconnect

The LDC Top 50 has celebrated more than 250 exceptional individuals since its launch. We catch up with three of those inspirational leaders

Seismic events affecting every business have taken place since The LDC Top 50 Most Ambitious Business Leaders was launched in 2018. Created by private equity investor LDC, the programme showcases the most exceptional leaders behind growing businesses across every sector of the UK economy. So how have these individuals adapted to our changing world?

When he walked off stage holding The Innovation Award at the IET London in 2021, Praveen Karadiguddi was on top of the world. His company, Scrumconnect, had been recognised for its technological prowess and agility during one of the most challenging trading periods in living memory. Scrumconnect helped public sector organisations to digitise rapidly during the pandemic, ensuring that pensioners received their payments, UK citizens could access fuel top-ups and much, much more. But how has the company fared since?

This year, Scrumconnect is forecasting continued revenue growth – and its headcount will rise from 350 to 500. The Staines-based company has become the trusted transformation partner for the public sector. "Out of the 75 services run by government, we are involved with projects touching 16," he says. "That's not bad for a small company and I'm really proud of that achievement."

For Karadiguddi, it wasn't just the recognition of being featured in The Top 50 that he found beneficial, but the network it brought with it too: "I was proud to be a part of such an inspiring group of leaders and found the peer-to-peer insights extremely valuable."

For many alumni, success has continued to blossom. Chris Bagnall, founder of global B2B marketing agency Transmission, reveals that turnover soared by 45 per cent in 2021, the year he won The International Ambition Award. His business has since become the go-to partner for many of the world's biggest tech brands and now generates the largest portion of its turnover from the US.



CHRIS BAGNALL
Founder, Transmission

"We've been successful in growing our relationships more internationally over the years," Bagnall says. "With many clients, we've often started working with them on one project in one region and have then become their global B2B agency. Very few rivals can match our offering."

Being featured in The Top 50 is not just recognition of a business's success, but an individual's. "I felt I achieved a personal ambition," Bagnall says. "It meant a lot that people I hadn't spoken to for 25 years saw me in the paper and got in touch, saying, 'Haven't you done well.'"

Simon Goodenough, CEO of specialist IT managed services provider DSP, is another alumnus who continues to successfully drive forward an ambitious growth plan. Since being in The Top 50 in 2019, headcount has risen from 60 to 200, profits are up fivefold and DSP has made a number of value-add acquisitions. "I'm more ambitious than ever," he says. "Since 2019, we have achieved a compound annual growth rate of 40 per cent and EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) has gone from £1 million to £5 million. I am excited about turning that into £10 million in the next year."



SIMON GOODENOUGH
CEO, DSP

He also credits being part of The Top 50 for influencing his business plan: "It made me realise I'd become myopic, just looking at other tech businesses. I was really inspired by what other Top 50 leaders were doing, especially around corporate social responsibility and internal talent management. That's one of the reasons DSP is now a lot more active in that sphere."

These stories showcase the leaders who are supporting the UK economy, creating jobs and driving innovation.

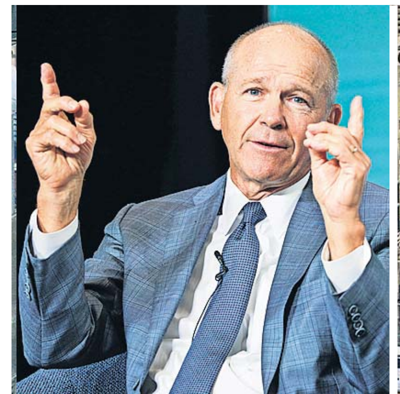
LDC THE TOP 50 2023
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TIMES

LDC has announced a final call for nominations for The Top 50 2023. To nominate a leader, scan the QR code

Business

We will regain

After two fatal crashes in two years the US aircraft maker knows it has a steep climb ahead. **Callum Jones** reports



Boeing has spent four long years rebuilding its reputation after two fatal crashes of its bestselling 737 Max aircraft. But the US planemaker knows that you probably have not forgotten the disasters.

The crashes of Lion Air flight 610 in October 2018 and Ethiopian Airlines flight 302 in March 2019 killed 346 people. The entire Max fleet was grounded for almost two years and its maker was plunged into crisis by a severe blow to its credibility on safety.

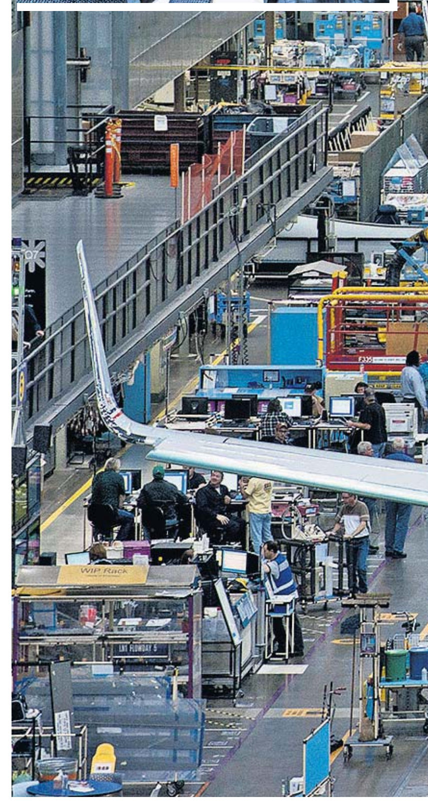
The aerospace giant has been trying to rebuild its reputation since then. "We win this one aircraft at a time," Dave Calhoun, the American aerospace giant's chief executive, said. "And we're not done."

Asked at the group's sprawling South Carolina manufacturing site how long it would take for Boeing to regain trust, Calhoun said that the airlines flying its planes had been unaffected by any such problem. "But the notion that people still worry about that and question their trust in our company, the notion that is still out there somewhere, I accept," he added. "I only know one way to resolve it: perfect transparency. You've gotta do it everyday and boy is it uncomfortable. Our investors hate it but you have to do it."

The Max has returned to the skies. Boeing is increasing production. After an arduous recovery, complicated by the onset of Covid-19 and years-long supply chain problems, focus has turned to the future.

The company, building Max jets at a rate of 31 per month this spring, is planning to increase to about 50 per month by 2025. The crisis caused by the Lion Air and Ethiopian crashes "was a real issue", Calhoun said. "That never should have occurred but it happened. So we deal with it, and we move forward and we admit to it."

Behind Calhoun at Boeing's factory four vast 787 jets were making their way along the production line. Initial assembly takes place at the first station; wings are added at the second; interiors installed at the third; before engines, including those supplied by Rolls-Royce, are added at the fourth. This process will be doubled, with a parallel line added, by early next year. Five 787s are made on site each month.



Boeing 737 Max jets on the production

At a media event this week the group sought to highlight its focus on the years and decades ahead. Specialist innovation cells have been set up on the edge of its factories generating hundreds of patents for potential solutions to what are known internally as "pebble in the shoe" problems: annoying issues that provide comfort if resolved.

Oxford fusion firm wins funding from Washington

Dominic O'Connell

A technology company based in the UK has secured funding from the United States government to push ahead with its plan for a nuclear fusion power plant — and the prospect of developing abundant clean energy.

Tokamak Energy, which has its headquarters in Oxford and counts the hedge fund tycoon Sir David Harding among its backers, is one of eight groups that will share $46 million from the US Department of Energy.

The money is part of the milestone-based fusion development programme, Washington's big drive to turn fusion into a commercial reality by bringing selected firms together with government-funded national laboratories and top universities.

Tokamak is one of several British firms racing to prove that the technology is viable. Warren East, former chief executive of Rolls-Royce engineering group, recently joined its board.

Warrick Matthews, the managing director at Tokamak, said the funding was "a fantastic endorsement of the strength of our team, technology and path to commercial fusion energy".

Ordinary nuclear power plants use fission reactions, in which large unstable atoms, normally uranium, break apart and release energy. Fusion, the process that powers the sun, is when small atoms are forced together. If perfected, it promises to produce nearly unlimited clean energy without harmful radioactive byproducts.

Previous efforts to harness fusion have proved abortive. Critics say the

trust one plane at a time, vows Boeing



line at its factory in South Carolina. The company is building 31 Max aircraft a month for customers including Ryanair, which has placed an order for up to 300 planes

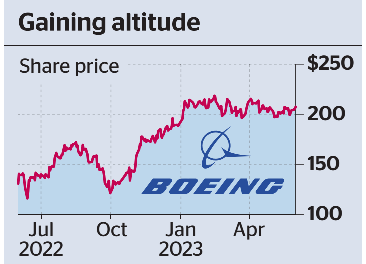
One idea, for self-cleaning superhydrophobic surfaces, is among the latest in Charleston.

Executives showed off a 100,000 sq ft research and development centre where technical staff are experimenting with inkjet printing, pixel by pixel, in an attempt to cut the time it takes to paint Boeing's huge aircraft. Materials and parts are put to the test inside a "lightning lab", where their durability is tested in storm conditions. The algorithms and models behind these simulations have been developed through a longstanding partnership with the University of Cambridge.

Wisk, an autonomous flying taxi start-up, is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Boeing, after Kitty Hawk, the other shareholder, sold it its stake. The terms of the transaction, announced this week, were not disclosed.

Brian Yutko, chief executive of Wisk, said that its aircraft would not replace planes but offered a "really compelling, complementary" service. How long it will take before passengers can whizz to and from airports, over the heads of those stuck in traffic on the road, remains a matter of great uncertainty. "Our path to certification is easy to say, hard to do," Yutko said.

Although Boeing has placed bets on such futuristic technology, it has guided customers and investors not to expect a next-generation model of its aircraft for at least a decade. Calhoun said that he was not particularly worried about holding off. "Let's assume there's a new plane in 2035," he said. "Let's assume the other guys can do a new plane by 2035. They're gonna have to do something substantial. It can't be incremental. It's got to be substantial … Would you do something in the interim? Would you? That's the question, for everybody."



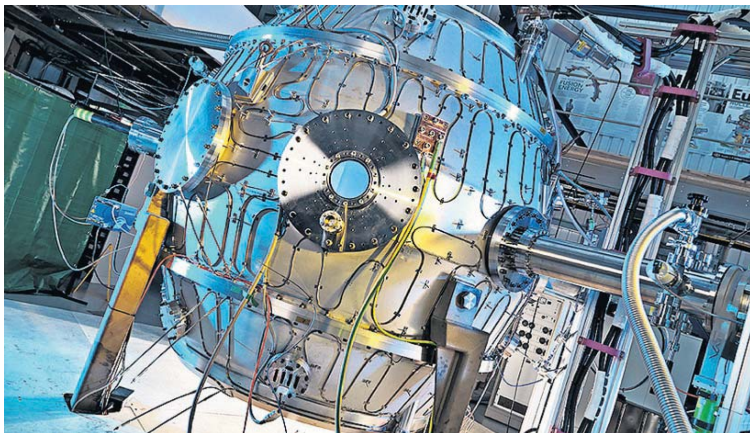
Airbus, its arch rival, has overtaken Boeing in the highly competitive fight for narrowbody jet orders. Calhoun claimed that recovering ground in this space and catching up with the European giant was not important. "I don't want to suggest that we can't do it, because I think we can," he said. "Most of the [market] share losses that have occurred over the last four years, which are the ones that are really measurable, are because we couldn't deliver aircraft, and we still had a hangover from not being able to deliver aircraft."

There have been some wins, including last month's decision by Ryanair to place the biggest aircraft order in its 30-year history — up to 300 short-haul planes — with Boeing. Europe's largest carrier agreed to take delivery of 150 of Boeing's 737 Max-10 aircraft and signed options to acquire another 150. The order had a notional value of $40 billion, although Michael O'Leary, Ryanair's chief executive, indicated that he had won a discount from Boeing, unspecified although likely to be significant, as a result of its size.

With senior figures from across the global aerospace sector due to head to France later this month for the Paris Air Show, Boeing will look to highlight, and potentially stoke, demand for its jets. It has had commitments and orders for a thousand aircraft since last summer's biennial international air jamboree at Farnborough, according to Darren Hulst, the group's vice-president for commercial marketing. "We've seen momentum," he said.

Recent months have been far from smooth on the supply side, however, with temporary delivery halts for some aircraft including the 737 Max owing to incorrectly installed parts, the 787 Dreamliner over documentation issues and the 767 freighter after identifying improperly sealed fuel tanks.

Not yet clear of turbulence, Calhoun claimed that Boeing was committed to being straight with those monitoring its flight. "Keep asking questions," he remarked to reporters as he wrapped up the news conference. "You may not like all the answers."



Tokamak technology aims to contain nuclear fusion reactions in magnetic fields

technical challenges are too great and it may never be a commercial prospect.

In recent years there has been a rush of private companies into the field, many funded by billionaires. Commonwealth Fusion, a spin-out from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and funded by the business magnate Bill Gates, was also selected for funding.

Tokamak is working on a plant that will contain fusion reactions within powerful magnetic fields and has made advances using new types of superconductors to make the fields stronger.

BHP admits underpaying staff $280m

Emily Gosden

The world's biggest mining company says it has underpaid almost 30,000 employees in Australia for more than a decade and faces a $280 million bill to compensate them.

BHP said it had incorrectly deducted leave from workers who took the day off on public holidays. The company apologised to affected staff, reported itself to the Australian government's Fair Work Ombudsman and said it had hired a third-party assurance firm to review its payroll system.

Melbourne-based BHP generated record underlying profits of $23.8 billion in the year to June 2022. It was a FTSE 100 group until early last year when it unified its dual company structure behind a primary listing in Australia and dropped out of London's blue-chip index, retaining only a secondary listing in the UK.

BHP has significant mining operations in Australia including vast iron ore production in the Pilbara and nickel mines in the west of the country, the Olympic Dam copper and gold mine in the south, and coking coal mines in Queensland and New South Wales.

The company said that a preliminary review had found that "certain rostered employees across our Australian operations have had leave incorrectly deducted on public holidays since 2010". It said that about 28,500 employees were affected, with each having had an average of six days of leave incorrectly deducted over the period.

Oz Minerals, the smaller mining group that BHP acquired last month, appears to have been affected by a similar issue, BHP said.

BHP said that a further 400 employees at Port Hedland, its iron ore exporting port in the Pilbara, were "entitled to additional allowances due to an error with the employment entity in their contract". It added: "It is estimated that the cost of remediating the leave issue and the contracting issue will be up to $280 million pre tax."

BHP said its investigations were ongoing and that it would provide a further update in August.

Geraldine Slattery, president of BHP Australia, said: "We are sorry to all current and former employees impacted by these errors. This is not good enough and falls short of the standards we expect at BHP."

The timing is awkward for BHP as the miner recently criticised proposed Australian government changes to industrial labour laws. Tony Burke, the workplace relations minister, said: "Just last week, BHP were trying to assure us that their employment practices were impeccable and the government didn't need to close any loopholes to protect wages. That's clearly not true."

Emma Powell **Tempus**

Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



These boots are looking down at heel

DR MARTENS

Market cap	Annual revenue
£1.64bn	£1bn

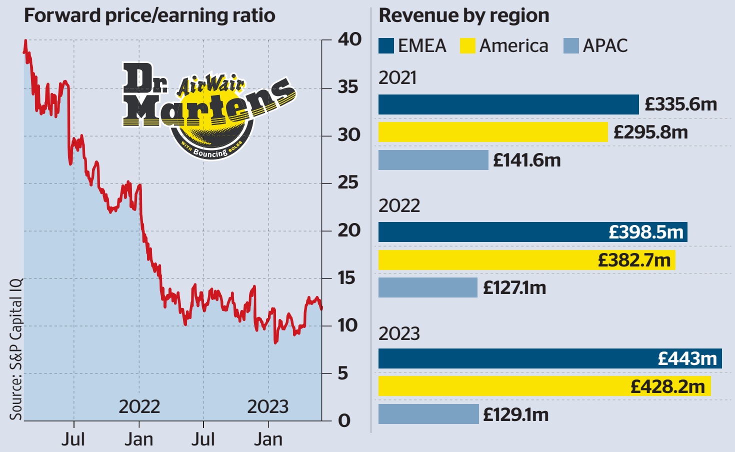
Dr Martens needs to prove it can put a foot right. A costly clean-up job at the bootmaker's Los Angeles distribution centre and the admission that it needs to invest more to achieve its growth ambitions, means profits not only missed market expectations last year, but will be weaker over the next two.

Its LA warehouse — with its three satellite facilities to deal with excess stock — is a properly knotty problem and when added to the decision to plough more cash into marketing, improve the logistics set-up and open more stores, it's no surprise pre-tax profits fell by just over a quarter to £159 million, behind a consensus forecast of £178 million.

The expense associated with righting distribution issues in America should wash through by the end of this new financial year, according to Kenny Wilson, chief executive, at which point inventory levels will be right-sized. But recovery in what is Dr Martens' largest market won't be that simple.

It is also grappling with weaker demand and a shift in the sales mix towards lower-margin shoes and sandals versus boots, which were pushed more heavily to US consumers by Docs' marketers. Revenue last year was down 1 per cent after the impact of dollar

Tread carefully



ADVICE Avoid
WHY The risk of margins or sales slipping again may prevent a recovery in the shares

appreciation was stripped out. Reversing the decline in the coming months depends on whether the sagging sales are the result of a bungled advertising strategy, rather than a diminishing appetite for Docs' chunky, boldly stitched boots.

Sales growth this year is set to come in at somewhere in the mid-to-high single digits, potentially accelerating to the high-single digits next year. But getting there is going to require more outlay on marketing, strengthening the supply chain and rolling out more stores.

The result? Adjusted margins that will be between one and two percentage points lower than last year's 24.5 per cent, which once higher depreciation charges are factored in, will have an outsized impact on pre-tax profit, before some modest improvement next year. It is a far cry from the mid-teens annual revenue growth and 30 per cent margin sold to investors at the time of the group's IPO. Analysts at Peel Hunt cut their profit forecasts for this year and the next by 20 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, to £150 million and £164 million.

Sacrificing profit in the short term might be an easier pill for investors to swallow if they could trust the bootmaker not to make another big misstep. Disappointing guidance comes on the heels of three profit warnings since November. The shares trade at less than half the 370p float price, which equates to a forward earnings multiple of 12, close to the lowest since IPO.

True, there is a history and crisp brand identity for investors to grasp on to. A strategy of growing the proportion of direct-to-consumer sales, which carries far higher gross margins than wholesale, to 60 per cent, is also sound. DTC rose to 52 per cent of sales last year, up from 49 per cent. There is plenty to go for outside Britain and America, too. The number of pairs sold per head in Germany is still about half the level per capita than in the UK and even less in markets like France and Japan. Strong revenue growth in each of those markets indicates the demand is there.

The only happy consequence of the LA distribution debacle? Making fewer pairs this year will free up more cash, enough to embolden the retailer to buy back £50 million in shares, the first return of its type in its short history as a public company.

Yet until Wilson and co can demonstrate that sales and profit targets are more than just talk, it is difficult to see its paltry share price as unjustified.

EDINBURGH INV TRUST

Discount to NAV	Dividend yield
7%	3.9%

If UK plc looks cheap, then Edinburgh Investment Trust carries a double discount. Shares in the FTSE 250 fund trade at a discount of just over 7 per cent against its net asset value.

The performance of the trust since Liontrust Asset Management, then Majedie, was appointed in March 2020 indicates that it deserves more credit. The value of its assets has risen 7.8 per cent over the latest 12-month period, outpacing the 2.9 per cent generated by the FTSE All-Share, the yardstick it attempts to beat. Over three years, the total NAV return — with dividends reinvested — amounts to 65.9 per cent, against 47.4 per cent from the index. Against peers the trust stacks up well, ranking ninth out of an extended peer group of 92 UK equity income funds since the portfolio transition, according to Investec analysis.

The 26.2p a share dividend declared for last year was just covered by earnings generated that year, after being rebased to a more sustainable level by the board in 2021. A refinancing of debt has also fixed its annual financing cost at just 2.44 per cent at an average term of 25 years, another boost to revenue of about £5 million a year.

Freeing the fund of a more burdensome dividend commitment also allows the manager to broaden top calls beyond the run-of-the-mill income stalwarts. True, the trust naturally has a chunky enough weighting towards some of those names, including Shell and Unilever. But the list of top holdings has broadened to include names that are rated more for their growth characteristics, such as the equipment rental business Ashtead and the industrial distribution specialist RS Group.

Companies at the mercy of discretionary spending may not seem an obvious choice while household incomes are under pressure. But by increasing positions in companies like Greggs, Tesco and Dunelm, James de Uphaugh, lead manager of the trust, is hoping to capitalise on signs that the UK economy is proving more resilient than expected by economists, as per the first-quarter readout of 0.1 per cent GDP growth. More of the same could be reflected in a recovery in the Edinburgh trust's share price.

ADVICE Buy
WHY Attractively valued for a long-term recovery

NEWS IN BRIEF

New boss at exchange

A former executive at DWS Group, the asset management arm of Deutsche Bank, has been hired to run the indices business of London Stock Exchange Group. The British company said that New York-based Fiona Bassett had been appointed as the chief executive of its FTSE Russell division and will remain in the US. Bassett previously ran DWS's UK business where she managed more than $300 billion of assets. At FTSE Russell she is succeeding London-based Arne Staal, who has moved to another post within the group.

Revolut tops 30m users

The boss of Revolut has hailed an "important milestone" after the fintech company said its base of retail customers had grown to more than 30 million, including more than 6.8 million in the UK. Nik Storonsky, co-founder and chief executive, said the group was now growing at a rate of almost one million customers a month. Despite its rapid expansion, Revolut has yet to secure a banking licence from financial regulators in Britain in more than two years of trying.

Tandem on right path

The digital lender Tandem Bank has swung into the black for the first time after reporting a maiden annual underlying operating profit of £4.5 million for last year. It said its retail deposits reached £1.75 billion in the 12 months to the end of December and its loan book had increased by 175 per cent to £1.2 billion. On a statutory basis, the bank fell to a pre-tax loss of £12.4 million, an improvement on the £19.6 million loss it suffered a year earlier.

Airbnb fights NYC law

Airbnb filed a lawsuit against New York City yesterday over legislation that it called a "de facto ban" on short-term rentals, set to come into effect in July. City councils in the United States are increasingly regulating short-term rentals, requiring hosts to obtain licences, pay fees or limit the number of rentals. Airbnb said more than 5,500 short-term rentals were booked by 10,000 visitors to the city from July. It said legal action followed "exhausting all available paths".

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	33061.57 (+153.30)
Nasdaq Composite	13100.98 (+165.70)
S&P 500	4221.02 (+41.19)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	31148.01 (+260.13)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	18216.91 (-17.36)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	756.35 (+7.49)
Sydney	
AO	7290.70 (+17.20)
Frankfurt	
DAX	15853.66 (+189.64)
Singapore	
Straits	3166.30 (+7.50)
Brussels	
BEL20	3551.92 (+15.13)
Paris	
CAC-40	7137.43 (+38.73)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11296.28 (+78.39)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4257.61 (+39.57)
London	
FTSE 100	7490.27 (+44.13)
FTSE 250	18827.76 (+104.86)
FTSE 350	4131.40 (+24.16)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3584.84 (+27.65)
FTSE All-Shares	4090.64 (+23.84)
FTSE Non Financials	4924.78 n/a
techMARK 100	6782.83 (+8.32)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2533 (+0.0089)
Euro	1.1640 (+0.0002)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	80.68 (+0.22)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	130.43 Apr (2015 = 100)
RPI	372.80 Apr (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 23	96.740	97.650	96.410	97.350	3704	4641
	SEP 23	96.500	97.640	96.340	97.290	220095	489961
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 23	96.430	96.450	96.415	96.440	116229	541457
	Sep 23	96.215	96.240	96.180	96.220	141207	600140
	Dec 23	96.300	96.340	96.255	96.310	107832	412228
	Mar 24	96.505	96.550	96.455	96.520	91950	387902
	Jun 24	96.755	96.800	96.690	96.765	84667	313931
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
FTSE100	Jun 23	7470.0	7508.5	7450.5	7505.5	111283	613015
	Sep 23	7473.0	7516.0	7465.0	7516.5	8931	5413
FTSEurofirst 80	Jun 23				5742.5		
	Sep 23				5785.0		

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Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	74.30	+1.90
BFOE(Aug)	74.30	+1.67
BFOE(Sep)	74.25	+1.29
WTI(Aug)	70.20	+1.96
WTI(Sep)	70.03	+1.89

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	843.00	847.00	+2.00
Gasoil EEC	685.50	686.50	+18.75
3.5 Fuel Oil	408.00	411.00	+14.00
Naphtha	570.00	584.00	+6.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jun	685.50-685.25	Sep	677.75-677.50
Jul	677.75-677.50	Oct	679.75-679.25
Aug	676.25-675.75		Volume: 675654

Brent (9.00pm)

Aug	74.94-74.93	Nov	74.25-74.21
Sep	74.85-74.83	Dec	73.91-73.89
Oct	74.56-74.53		Volume: 2023944

LIFFE

Cocoa

Jul	2341-2339	Sep	2161-2125
Sep	2320-2311	Dec	2102-2121
Dec	2273-2269	Mar	2051-2090
Mar	2207-2203		
May	2188-2176		
Jul	2190-2140		Volume: 77722

RobustaCoffee

Jul	2613-2610	Mar	2455-2390
Sep	2575-2570	May	2424-2370
Nov	2516-2501		
Jan	2466-2440		Volume: 20967

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	659.30-656.90
		May	644.00-643.60
Aug	690.80-690.30	Aug	633.10-600.00
Oct	693.60-679.90	Oct	610.50-597.70
Dec	670.80-668.30		Volume: 70242

ME Group the picture of success before promotion



***Jessica Newman* Market report**

A listed operator of photo booths and self-service laundry machines made quite an impression on the City yesterday ahead of its promotion to the FTSE 250.

ME Group International, formerly Photo Me International, was in the spotlight as it upgraded its forecasts after a strong first half pushed revenues and pre-tax profit higher by 24 per cent and 35 per cent respectively.

High demand for photo IDs, particularly in Europe and Asia, drove up revenues in its photo-booth division by a quarter on the same period the year before, while sales from its laundry operations climbed 36 per cent.

The group will begin rolling out a new app this month, which it said "will analyse its customers, increase their loyalty and boost performance". Its Print.ME business, which operates mainly in France, also did well, with first-half revenues up 11 per cent.

The group's strong performance in the six months to the end of April mean bosses expect annual revenues are likely to be between £300 million and £320 million, up from guidance of £280 million to £300 million, and pre-tax profits to be between £64 million and £67 million. Its previous expectation was between £61 million and £65 million.

Shares in the newly promoted FTSE 250 constituent, which have more than doubled in the past 12 months, gained another 12¼p, or 8.9 per cent, to close at 150p, their highest level in more than five years.

The wider market was swept up in a relief rally as investor sentiment perked up after the United States House of Representatives passed a vote to raise the country's debt ceiling.

After finishing May at a two-month low, the **FTSE 100** started the month on a more upbeat note, with the index improving 44.13 points, or 0.6 per cent, to 7,490.27. The more UK-focused **FTSE 250** recovered 104.86 points, or 0.6 per cent, to 18,827.76.

London's leading share index was given a lift by miners as investors tracked the rise in metal prices, which was boosted as a survey showing factory growth in China eased concerns about soft demand. The Mexican precious metals producer **Fresnillo** rose 29¼p, or 4.5 per cent, to 677¼p. Also rising were **Anglo American**, by 76p, or 3.4 per cent, to £22.99½; **Antofagasta**, by 42½p, or 3.2 per cent, to £13.80; and **Rio Tinto**, up 104p, or 2.2 per cent, to £48.86.

Investors continued to pile into **B&M European Value Retail**, which rose a further 19¾p, or 3.8 per cent, to 529½p, following the retailer's recent profit upgrade.

Hopes that bosses at **Convatec** may increase the group's full-year profit guidance, following its upgraded sales growth forecasts, prompted Morgan Stanley to lift its recommendation to "overweight", pushing the medical devices company 6¼p, or 3.1 per cent, higher to 209p.

Reports that **Johnson Matthey** is planning to sell its medical device components businesses powered the chemicals group up 32p, or 1.9 per cent, to £17.62.

Capita, which is to re-enter the FTSE 250, moved up 1¼p, or 3.1 per cent, to 34½p after the outsourcer said the sale of its resourcing business to Inspirit Capital was complete.

Results from **AutoTrader** and **Dr Martens** did not go down well, with the former dropping 21½p, or 3.4 per cent, to 608¾p, while the bootmaker tumbled 18½p, or 11.7 per cent, to 138p.

Shares in **Ocado** fell a further 16¾p, or 4.5 per cent, to 352½p as analysts at UBS said they found the online grocer's midterm targets "stretching", while a lack of progress in the Kroger rollout also raised concerns.

Wall Street report

Indices began the month on a positive note after lawmakers passed a bill to raise the federal debt ceiling and on hopes that there will be no rate rise this month. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 153.30 points, or 0.5 per cent, at 33,061.57.

INDUSTRIALS

Ceres powers into main market

Ceres Power has unveiled plans to move up to the main market of the London Stock Exchange, having outgrown Aim, the City's junior trading platform.

The fuel cells maker, which was admitted to Aim in 2004, said that a premium listing on the main market would make it "more accessible to a greater range of potential international investors" as the company's valuation had swelled above £500 million.

Upon moving to a premium listing, Ceres Power expects to enter the FTSE 250 later this year.

Originally spun out from London's Imperial College in 2001, Ceres Power has established partnerships with Weichai in China, Germany's Bosch and Miura in Japan.

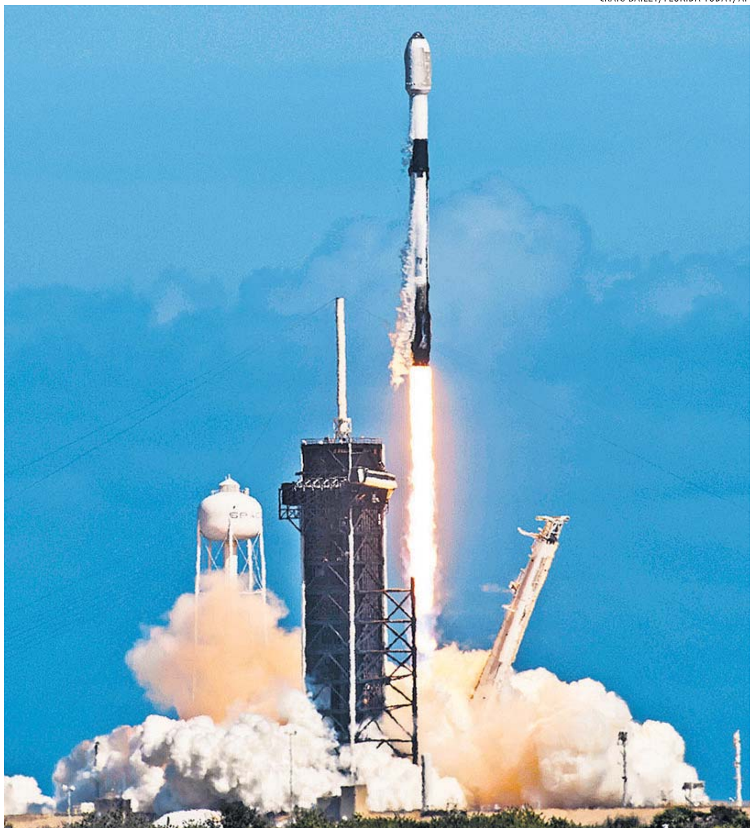
Phil Caldwell, chief executive, believes the time is right to ditch its Aim status as moving to a premium listing would widen its investor base and further enhance the company's profile on "the international stage".

Last year the group generated revenues of £22.1 million and an operating loss of £51.5 million.

The shares, which have fallen sharply in the past year, were buoyed by yesterday's update, closing up 15¾p, or 5.67 per cent, at 294½p last night.



Ceres Power's fuel cells business is now worth more than £500 million



CRAIG BAILEY/FLORIDA TODAY/AP

Starlink to keep Ukraine connected

SpaceX's Starlink, the satellite communications service started by the billionaire Tesla boss Elon Musk in 2002, has secured funding through a US Department of Defence contract to provide services for Ukraine.

"We continue to work with a range of global partners to ensure Ukraine has the resilient satellite and communication capabilities they need," the Pentagon said.

"Satellite communications constitute a vital layer in Ukraine's overall communications network and the department contracts with Starlink for services of this type."

Ukrainian troops use Starlink for battlefield communications and other tasks.

SpaceX, through private donations and under a separate contract with a US foreign aid agency, has been providing Ukrainians and the country's military with Starlink internet service, a fast-growing network of more than 4,000 satellites in low Earth orbit, since the war began last year.

The Pentagon deal is a boost for SpaceX after Musk said in October it could not afford to indefinitely fund Starlink in Ukraine at a cost of $20 million a month.

Russia has tried to block internet services in Ukraine, including attempts to block Starlink in the region, although SpaceX has countered those attacks by hardening the service's software.

The Pentagon did not disclose the terms of the contract, which was first reported by Bloomberg.

Ukraine's cyberwarriors fight back, page 28

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Trainline Snaps seven-day losing streak	6.1%
Fresnillo Higher gold prices	4.5%
B&M European Value Retail Rally continues after lifting annual profit outlook	3.8%
Bakkavor Group Recovers some losses	3.1%
ConvaTec Group Morgan Stanley upgrades to "overweight"	3.1%
3i Group Runs out of steam after record highs	-1.0%
National Grid Trades ex-dividend	-1.2%
Auto Trader Annual results disappoint the market	-3.4%
Ocado Analysts uncertain group will meet midterm targets	-4.5%
Dr Martens Annual profits drop	-11.7%

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Jul	165.00	Nov	184.00	Jan	unq
Mar	unq	May	194.00	Volume: 667	

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

	Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	8210.0-8210.5	8226.0-8227.0	8280.0-8290.0
Lead ($/tonne)	1988.0-1989.0	1990.0-1991.0	2020.0-2025.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	2270.5-2271.0	2286.0-2286.5	2308.0-2313.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)	2280.5-2281.0	2252.5-2253.0	2402.0-2407.0
Nickel ($/tonne)	20800.0-20850.0	20900.0-20950.0	22145.0-22195.0
Tin ($/tonne) (15mth)	25525.0-25575.0	25350.0-25400.0	24625.0-24675.0

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Wednesday.

Bullion: Open $1966.17

Close $1979.88-1980.11 High $1983.00

Low $1953.60

AM $1959.00 **PM** $1964.40

Platinum $1092.00 (£871.11)

Silver $23.88 (£19.05)

Palladium $1721.11 (£1372.96)

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	4.88	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 4.50 ECB Refi 2.50 US Fed Fund 4.50-4.75

Halifax Mortgage Rate 3.99

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 4.480; 3 mth 4.847. Sell: 1 mth 4.140; 3 mth 4.480

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	4.2013	0.000	4.7517	4.7447	0.00
Eurodollar Deps	5.18-5.61	0.00-0.00	5.04-5.04	4.67-4.67	3.82-3.82

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.6530-8.6917	8.6817-8.6830	125ds	398ds
Euro	1.1672-1.1623	1.1659-1.1657	10pr	31pr
Montreal	1.6843-1.6930	1.6851-1.6854	2ds	10ds
New York	1.2402-1.2537	1.2535-1.2536	8pr	19pr
Oslo	13.737-13.949	13.858-13.861	120ds	372ds
Stockholm	13.473-13.606	13.560-13.564	227ds	651ds
Tokyo	173.05-174.10	174.04-174.05	70ds	223ds
Zurich	1.1297-1.1388	1.1376-1.1377	32ds	98ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5202-1.5204
Canada	1.3443-1.3444
Denmark	6.9257-6.9262
Euro	0.9299-0.9300
Hong Kong	7.8314-7.8317
Japan	138.84-138.84
Malaysia	4.6110-4.6160
Norway	11.052-11.058
Singapore	1.3474-1.3476
Sweden	10.817-10.820
Switzerland	0.9075-0.9076

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	300.99-301.00
Australia dollar	1.9057-1.9060
Bahrain dinar	0.4691-0.4761
Brazil real	6.2905-6.2943
Euro	1.1657-1.1659
Hong Kong dollar	9.8171-9.8181
India rupee	103.20-103.20
Indonesia rupiah	18681-18698
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3844-0.3867
Malaysia ringgit	5.7392-5.7454
New Zealand dollar	2.0654-2.0659
Singapore dollar	1.6891-1.6894
S Africa rand	24.587-24.599
U A E dirham	4.5849-4.5863

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.910	-0.01
Canada $	1.691	+0.01
Denmark Kr	8.689	+0.03
Euro €	1.167	
Hong Kong $	9.806	+0.10
Hungary	432.686	+1.64
Indonesia	18767.528	+188.88
Israel Shk	4.688	+0.06
Japan Yen	173.960	+0.80
New Zealand $	2.067	
Norway Kr	13.913	+0.10
Poland	5.278	+0.01
Russia	101.381	+0.71
S Africa Rd	24.570	+0.01
Sweden Kr	13.596	+0.11
Switzerland Fr	1.138	
Turkey Lira	26.051	+0.40
USA $	1.252	+0.01

Rates supplied by Morningstar

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication


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ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	+0.27	1.05
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	148.03	...	+1.35	4.71
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.78	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	-14.91	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	313.80	...	-2.52	4.70
UK Gwth A ‡@	7822.93	...	-59.78	2.36
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-5.83	3.01
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-11.35	...

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2116.90	...	-24.63	3.44
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	-0.48	1.29
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	-0.46	1.30
European Growth R Acc ‡@	394.37	...	-4.39	1.90
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-0.07	1.21
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	331.06	...	-3.39	2.42
Global Income R Acc ‡@	149.31	...	-1.50	4.45
Global Income R Inc ‡@	93.86	...	-0.95	4.67
Global Select R Acc ‡@	151.03	...	-0.93	0.21
High Income R Inc ‡@	61.82	...	+0.19	6.32
Income R Acc ‡@	504.71	...	-3.35	3.96
Income R Inc ‡@	216.67	...	-1.44	4.08
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	62.31	...	-0.11	5.07
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	89.67	...	-0.70	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	94.68	...	+0.62	3.73
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	49.24	...	+0.32	3.82
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	94.50	...	+0.61	3.80
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	49.20	...	+0.32	3.87
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	726.53	...	-6.39	2.14
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1790.97	...	-11.34	1.52
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	692.66	...	-7.08	1.13

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.70	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	+0.10	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	2947.00	...	-13.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	...	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	204.20	...	-1.40	6.18
UK Growth Inc ‡@	213.20	...	-0.80	0.95
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1834.00	...	-14.00	1.18
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	256.10	...	-1.30	0.16

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	+6.00	2.64
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-2.00	2.70

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	...	1.18
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	+0.24	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+4.10	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+2.20	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-17.60	...

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	209.90	...	-2.40	1.69
Sus Leaders ‡@	798.70	...	-0.90	1.15
UK Growth ‡@	620.20	...	-3.70	2.07
UK Income ‡@	199.90	...	-1.10	5.32

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.35	0.01

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3590.61	...	-31.65	1.01

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	83.05	...	+0.60	4.22
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	320.20	...	-3.20	1.96
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	339.00	...	-0.90	0.57
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	120.80	...	-0.20	4.96
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	219.60	...	-0.40	1.55
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	271.20	...	+0.60	1.17

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.31	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-0.50	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1265.00	...	-12.00	0.09
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.39	...	+0.11	1.85
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	417.90	...	-3.80	3.06
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	305.60	...	-0.40	...
High Inc Trst @	10.96	11.56	...	5.58
Max Inc Bond ‡@	42.69	...	+0.08	3.69
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ‡@	840.60	...	+2.40	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	466.30	...	-5.30	0.04
Strategic Bd ‡@	193.50	...	+0.80	1.43
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+2.00	1.27
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1007.00	...	-4.00	0.19

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2152.00	...	-4.00	...
American ‡@	5441.00	...	+8.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	592.40	...	-6.30	0.31
European ‡@	3522.00	...	-33.00	0.83
Extra Income ‡@	21.96	...	+0.16	5.86
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5543.00	...	-21.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2928.00	...	-7.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan ‡@	561.20	...	-3.40	0.77
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	42.36	...	-0.04	4.01
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	-0.95	2.97
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	28.43	...	+0.26	4.82
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	127.97	...	-1.17	3.24
Special Sits ‡@	4429.00	...	-27.00	2.64
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	31.62	...	+0.28	2.49
Ethical ‡@	113.10	...	...	0.01
European ‡@	112.30	...	-1.20	1.96
Far Eastern ‡	110.80	...	-1.20	3.41
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	134.20	...	-0.60	0.43
Intl Gwth ‡	126.60	...	-0.60	1.44
Japanese ‡	71.27	...	-0.82	1.46
North Amer ‡	152.70	...	+0.40	0.37
Smaller Cos ‡@	102.80	...	+0.20	1.18
Special Sits ‡@	49.73	...	-0.29	1.40
UK Equity Inc ‡@	89.86	...	-0.79	3.85
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	69.85	...	-0.69	2.56
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	78.55	...	-0.70	2.50
UK Growth ‡@	81.26	...	-0.69	2.73

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	942.57	...	+4.74	1.30
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	747.03	...	+3.76	2.57
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1205.30	...	-13.83	2.65
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	750.22	...	-8.61	2.72
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	275.67	...	-2.80	3.32
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	123.10	...	-1.25	3.41
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	283.52	...	-1.12	3.62
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	169.04	...	-0.67	3.07
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	699.77	...	-7.11	3.37
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	347.69	...	-3.53	3.46
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	144.31	...	-1.27	1.93
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	110.33	...	-0.97	1.97
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	495.77	...	-8.38	3.44
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	301.13	...	-5.10	3.56

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	240.82	...	-0.25	0.93
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	-0.14	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	260.92	...	+2.30	5.02
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	100.32	...	+0.89	3.43
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+1.62	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+0.24	...
Income Acc ‡@	702.55	...	-9.33	4.25
Income Inc ‡@	288.25	...	-3.83	4.39
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	125.50	...	-0.69	4.06
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	143.87	...	-1.70	4.16
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	63.50	...	-0.75	4.29
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	143.87	...	-1.70	4.16
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	63.50	...	-0.75	4.29

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	942.57	...	+4.74	1.30
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	747.03	...	+3.76	2.57
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	+0.27	...
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	+0.22	...
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	+4.05	0.41
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	+3.39	0.44

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	1.49
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	2.18
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	2.24
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	...
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	4.32
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	0.58
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	0.15
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	0.21

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-0.12	7.05

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	467.64	...	-0.99	2.29
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	195.63	...	+1.77	1.60
High Income Inc ‡@	312.66	...	-2.15	4.04
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	416.44	...	-1.70	3.10
Income Inc ‡@	1226.05	...	-8.07	3.59
Money Acc ‡@	93.20	...	+0.04	1.91
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	90.52	...	+0.54	6.27
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	-0.24	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	887.30	...	-8.81	1.69
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1306.76	...	-5.95	0.35
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	+0.04	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	698.45	...	+1.09	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	719.59	...	-10.58	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	-3.81	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	371.93	...	+0.36	1.92
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	233.12	...	+0.22	1.94
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	127.08	...	+0.32	0.62
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	134.57	...	+0.33	...
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	320.75	...	+0.51	2.70
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	67.67	...	+0.11	4.12
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	112.65	...	+0.35	4.86
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	64.40	...	+0.20	6.73
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	143.32	...	-1.07	0.97
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	182.36	...	+0.72	5.06
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	70.66	...	+0.28	5.30
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-0.05	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-1.25	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+4.03	...
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+3.00	...
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+29.78	...
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+1.95	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-1.14	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	233.04	...	-0.44	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	307.17	...	-1.78	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1265.03	...	-1.73	0.37
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	189.61	...	-0.20	0.88
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	314.67	...	-2.46	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	243.40	...	-1.90	...
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	275.96	...	+1.68	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+0.43	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.01	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	166.82	...	-0.01	...
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.19	...
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.09	...
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.44	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2644.13	...	-22.36	2.02
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4611.50	...	-11.63	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4136.23	...	-10.43	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1379.52	...	-11.70	1.59
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	494.52	...	-4.19	1.63

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	110.80	...	+1.00	2.18
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	75.47	...	-0.81	6.23
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	280.60	...	+0.50	2.91
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	137.20	...	+0.30	2.96
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1023.00	...	-18.00	0.31
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	190.60	...	-0.80	0.76
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	298.20	...	-3.30	1.18
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2264.00	...	-35.00	1.17
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	28.23	...	+0.28	4.73
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4140.00	...	-21.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	66.19	...	-0.47	3.35
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	3202.00	...	+14.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	113.27	...	-1.70	2.97
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	163.20	...	+0.10	0.82
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	255.00	...	-1.00	0.24
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	144.40	...	+0.60	3.03
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	187.30	...	+0.90	2.92
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	199.30	...	+1.90	1.91
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	54.11	...	+0.51	1.93
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	101.40	...	+1.20	3.33
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	169.80	...	...	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	136.00	...	-1.20	1.16
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	-1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.01	2.63
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	...	2.68
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1799.00	...	-8.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	+2.20	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+3.00	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+4.70	0.47
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+17.40	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+35.00	1.35
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.10	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.29	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.70	0.07
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.50	0.08
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+1.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+11.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+6.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+16.00	0.57
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+15.00	0.58
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+17.30	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	+12.00	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.40	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.13	...
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.08	...
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-2.20	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+4.30	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+3.10	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	+0.60	3.45
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	+0.07	3.49
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	-0.20	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	-0.48	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+7.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+2.00	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+7.00	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+3.50	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+1.77	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+25.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+14.00	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.91	...	+0.06	0.11
Distribution and Growth ‡@	95.90	...	+0.31	2.72
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-31.23	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	465.22	...	-2.88	...
European ‡@	2988.93	...	-17.49	...
Financial Opps ‡@	680.87	...	-0.67	1.19
Income Trust ‡@	493.15	...	-5.58	4.13
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	229.54	...	-0.96	2.08
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	534.90	...	-3.30	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	338.96	...	-0.83	2.96
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	377.91	...	-1.16	...
UK Growth ‡@	260.50	...	-0.64	0.68
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	201.78	...	-1.97	2.26

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	2.12
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	-2.70	2.15
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	531.70	...	-5.90	2.16
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	348.30	...	-3.90	2.21
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	127.80	...	+1.10	2.40
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	59.61	...	+0.54	2.44
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	105.70	...	-0.80	0.85
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	104.70	...	+0.10	0.07
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	0.17
High Inc Acc ‡@	122.10	...	+0.40	5.26
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	70.56	...	-0.48	1.71
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	199.40	...	-2.00	3.05
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	3.19
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	343.00	...	-3.10	3.22
UK Index Dist ‡@	162.90	...	-1.50	3.30
US Ind Acc ‡@	820.80	...	-2.20	0.85
Worldwide Acc ‡@	334.80	...	-1.20	0.81



M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1421.63	...	-13.65	5.91

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	-3.39	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	-3.00	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	674.03	...	-4.11	5.26
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	73.27	...	+1.00	2.67
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	39.40	...	+0.47	5.70
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	108.18	...	+1.73	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	76.00	...	-0.69	3.73
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.95	...	+0.06	2.80
UK Select A Inc ‡	2770.47	...	-13.99	2.31

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	32.79	...	+0.33	4.04
Dividend Inc ‡	51.56	...	-0.05	6.03
Recovery A Inc ‡	106.21	...	-1.53	3.61
Sml Cos Inc ‡	324.10	...	-1.30	2.46

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	138.26	...	-0.19	2.89

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	84.53	84.53	+0.13	4.19
High Income Acc	239.20	239.20	+0.40	4.08
UK 100 Comp Acc @	449.20	449.20	-4.60	2.87
UK 100 Cos @	220.70	220.70	-2.20	2.94
UK Select Pflo @	326.60	326.60	-9.70	3.17
UK Selection Port Acc @	687.10	687.10	-8.90	1.49
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	929.90	929.90	-3.40	1.30
Wwide Mgd @	543.90	543.90	-2.00	1.31

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	743.21	...	-13.09	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	739.00	...	-13.02	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	921.11	...	-3.96	5.29
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	842.42	...	-3.62	5.48
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	919.59	...	-3.96	5.31
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	840.86	...	-3.62	5.50
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	927.34	...	-2.40	1.50
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	907.78	...	-2.35	1.52
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	926.02	...	-2.40	1.45
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	907.54	...	-2.36	1.44
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1307.12	...	-10.44	4.07
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1820.91	...	-14.56	4.04
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1397.59	...	-11.17	4.15
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1568.97	...	-19.19	0.71
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	13606.62	...	-115.67	0.71
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1497.13	...	-18.30	0.71
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3724.95	...	-31.67	0.71
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	550.37	...	-0.33	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	550.37	...	-0.32	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	547.52	...	-0.33	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	547.52	...	-0.33	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1175.70	...	-11.96	0.62
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1258.63	...	-8.04	0.61
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1275.89	...	-8.16	0.47
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1173.70	...	-11.95	0.47
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1283.19	...	-8.20	0.61
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	117.93	...	+1.06	3.47
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	92.24	...	+0.83	3.53
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2506.97	...	+22.46	3.03
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1308.45	...	+11.72	3.10
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	932.07	...	+1.72	2.82
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	886.92	...	+1.64	2.89
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	927.49	...	+1.70	2.63
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	886.57	...	+1.63	2.67
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1516.96	...	+0.91	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	856.22	...	-3.46	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1612.62	...	+0.95	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	896.79	...	-3.62	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	+0.40	2.41
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	228.70	...	+0.40	1.79
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	197.90	...	+0.90	5.16
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+0.10	3.09
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	263.80	263.80	+0.10	3.16
UK Growth Acc ‡@	450.90	...	-3.10	3.23
UK Growth Inc ‡@	237.50	...	-1.60	3.31

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+4.40	0.78
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	...
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	+0.02	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	...
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-21.63	1.11
Mutual Far Eastern	888.62	937.86	-10.99	1.15
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+6.23	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-10.35	2.59
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	-7.28	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	+1.31	1.56

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	+0.80	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	0.43
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	0.60
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	+1.30	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	+1.10	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3451.00	...	-69.00	2.03

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	382.50	...	-1.70	2.91
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	189.50	...	-0.80	2.98

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	275.40	...	+0.80	2.49
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	101.20	...	+0.10	2.52
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	378.50	...	+0.10	1.73
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	230.60	...	+0.70	5.40
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	67.60	...	+0.20	5.56
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	372.70	...	-2.40	3.66
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	114.00	...	-2.40	3.74
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	184.00	...	+0.40	3.54
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	79.83	...	-0.12	3.61
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	192.40	...	-1.50	2.90
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2300.00	...	-22.00	1.33

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	422.40	...	-1.80	3.00
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	188.40	...	-0.80	3.08

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.90	1.39
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.30	1.40
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.30	1.79
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	...	1.09

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	124.10	...	-1.00	3.27
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	...	1.29

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	87.06	...	+0.42	1.40
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	48.82	...	+0.23	1.41
AAA Income Acc ‡@	94.90	...	+0.46	1.82
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	204.00	...	+0.50	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	151.90	...	+1.50	3.32
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	50.42	...	+0.48	3.39
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	+3.90	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	147.50	...	-0.10	1.39
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	194.80	...	-0.10	1.36
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	162.00	...	-0.20	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	145.00	...	+0.10	4.40
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.69	...	+0.02	4.53
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	...	...
Managed Acc ‡@	362.40	...	-1.70	0.69
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	...	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.26	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	+1.70	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	+1.00	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	262.90	...	-2.50	4.66
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	71.15	...	-0.68	4.83
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	202.00	...	-0.30	2.25
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	...	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	...	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	744.20	...	-4.40	0.67

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	133.93	...	...	1.25
Balanced A Inc ‡@	119.07	...	...	1.26
Cautious A Acc ‡@	110.95	...	+0.36	1.83
Cautious A Inc ‡@	95.51	...	+0.31	1.85
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	327.45	...	-0.94	0.91
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	293.81	...	-0.84	0.91
Growth A Acc ‡@	336.95	...	-0.55	1.09
Income A Acc ‡@	245.01	...	+0.47	1.76
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	-0.28	3.52
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	-0.11	3.61

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	127.15	...	-0.70	1.54

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.36	...	+0.02	4.37
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	77.91	...	-0.10	3.64
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	52.35	...	+0.44	2.63
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	52.25	...	+0.45	2.29
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	42.27	...	+0.57	2.55
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.17	...	+0.15	3.73
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	99.48	...	-0.23	3.48
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	92.49	...	-0.26	2.74
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	180.30	...	-1.43	1.89
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	67.85	...	-0.34	4.25
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	136.66	...	-0.72	1.47
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	347.40	...	-2.07	...

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	950.90	950.90	-2.50	0.33
European	210.70	219.40	+1.00	...

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

British funds

Index-linked

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
148.29	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	104.37	+ .31	1.13	0.80
148.03	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	93.49	+ .28	0.67	0.99
135.97	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	82.39	+ .28	...	1.07
137.73	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	80.16	+ .21	...	1.11
158.53	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	92.27	+ .24	0.83	1.11
140.21	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	78.44	+ .21	...	1.11
154.52	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	86.02	+ .22	...	1.10
148.63	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	79.46	+ .22	...	1.08
194.37	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	105.48	+ .08	1.30	1.05
149.13	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	74.71	+ .02	...	1.02
151.14	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	73.92	+ .06	...	1.02
131.32	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	88.37	+ .30	...	0.92
142.79	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	95.18	+ .31	...	0.94
134.89	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	86.06	+ .31	...	0.96
168.60	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	80.88	+ .06	...	0.97
112.84	96.90	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	98.20	– .03	...	0.78
122.91	99.85	Tr IL 1¼% 27	103.08	– .01	1.33	0.55
117.32	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	97.95	+ .04	...	0.53
117.88	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	97.62	+ .07	...	0.54
378.34	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	335.40	+ .48	1.93	0.73
122.81	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	98.01	+ .21	...	0.37
137.28	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	107.27	+ .23	1.17	0.46
133.26	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	101.27	+ .26	...	0.63
289.48	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	238.79	+ .64	1.02	0.82
129.16	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	92.00	+ .29	...	0.75
109.05	99.11	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	99.19	– .03	...	1.14
389.95	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	374.77	+ .02	1.44	2.70
164.46	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	72.45	+ .09	...	0.91
171.62	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	71.93	+ .14	...	0.89
188.63	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	75.17	+ .10	...	0.72

Longs (Over 15 years)

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
135.24	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	96.70	+ .61	4.40	4.48
139.18	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	96.59	+ .61	4.40	4.47
66.37	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	40.28	+ .37	...	4.40
57.80	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	29.93	+ .52	...	4.18
111.19	60.88	Tr 2½% 65	65.36	+ .86	...	4.28
140.44	79.01	Tr 3½% 68	84.28	+1.05	...	4.29
143.04	63.35	Tr 0⅝% 51	76.78	+ .19	...	1.10
78.69	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	49.23	+ .42	...	4.42
132.80	82.51	Tr 3¾% 52	88.73	+ .62	...	4.44
83.95	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	51.66	+ .46	...	4.42
86.73	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	53.05	+ .48	...	4.40
148.14	90.79	Tr 4¼% 55	97.26	+ .74	4.37	4.41
89.85	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	54.14	+ .66	...	4.34
74.22	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	49.28	+ .42	...	4.45
84.68	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	56.44	+ .42	...	4.47
89.57	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	58.98	+ .45	...	4.45
147.23	87.32	Tr 4% 60	93.60	+1.00	...	4.35
86.15	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	47.34	+ .77	...	4.16
71.08	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	37.07	+ .68	...	4.08
103.74	85.32	Tr 3¾% 53	88.22	+ .62	...	4.46
134.92	98.36	Tr 4¾% 38	104.50	+ .60	4.55	4.35
84.53	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	63.33	+ .45	...	4.39
128.07	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	98.37	+ .57	4.32	4.39
129.21	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	98.14	+ .63	...	4.40
83.80	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	60.56	+ .49	...	4.40
115.33	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	83.70	+ .56	...	4.47
135.11	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	101.06	+ .71	4.45	4.42
120.03	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	86.58	+ .57	...	4.47

Mediums (5-15 years)

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
94.88	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	87.57	+ .13	...	4.36
99.70	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	92.07	+ .12	...	4.23
100.63	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	88.37	+ .18	...	4.05
95.06	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	82.55	+ .24	...	4.00
103.82	97.21	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	98.92	+ .12	...	4.45
90.09	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	76.88	+ .27	...	4.02
124.13	101.89	Tr 4¾% 30	104.80	+ .31	4.53	4.00
87.42	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	73.84	+ .31	...	4.05
92.63	73.06	Tr 1% 32	77.71	+ .30	...	4.08
122.11	98.13	Tr 4¼% 32	101.71	+ .37	4.18	4.02
101.14	91.30	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	93.11	+ .38	...	4.12
89.47	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	73.16	+ .37	...	4.14
126.68	107.13	Tr 6% 28	109.25	+ .19	5.49	4.11
92.99	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	81.76	+ .20	...	4.15
126.68	98.89	Tr 4½% 34	102.90	+ .46	4.37	4.17
94.18	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	72.77	+ .47	...	4.33
98.68	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	89.07	+ .14	...	4.15
113.40	98.23	Tr 4¼% 27	100.33	+ .16	4.24	4.17
92.68	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	83.20	+ .16	...	4.12
104.43	...	Tr 3¾% 38	93.30	+ .53	...	4.37
82.71	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	65.96	+ .39	...	4.23
125.01	94.91	Tr 4¼% 36	100.09	+ .53	4.25	4.24

Shorts (under 5 years)

Stock Outstanding(£)		Stock	Price (£)	Wkly +/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
97.47	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	93.01	+ .07	...	4.28
101.22	93.15	Tr 2% 25	94.89	+ .07	...	4.39
100.88	96.83	Tr 3½% 25	97.31	+ .08	...	4.70
95.25	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	89.80	+ .10	...	4.22
102.28	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	97.74	+ .02	...	4.61
108.68	100.36	Tr 5% 25	100.75	+ .05	4.96	4.55
96.42	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	92.97	+ .05	...	4.70
99.52	97.34	Tr 0¾% 23	99.52	+ .02	...	4.13
100.71	98.04	Tr 2¼% 23	99.42	+ .01	...	4.43
97.53	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	97.11	+ .03	...	4.60
98.91	94.79	Tr 1% 24	96.85	+ .03	...	4.69

* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

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Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.

12-month high and low Please note the 12-month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
297	89½	Aston Martin Lag	264⅜	− 19½	...	-1.5

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236	133	**Abrdn**	198½	...	...	4.3
2361	1729	**Admiral**‡	2307	− 18	...	11.7
66⅛	23½	ADVFN♦	23½	...	...	4.1
390	255⅛	AJ Bell	322⅜	+ 3⅛	...	30.2
27254¼	20146⅝	Aon Corpn	25068½	+ 194⅜	...	61.1
42¾	23⅝	Appreciate Group♦	42⅛	...	...	18.3
1002½	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	940	+ 2½	...	20.8
14	8½	Argo Group♦	9	+ ½	...	4.1
286⅜	180⅞	Ashmore	228	+ 3⅜	...	7.7
1371	1107¾	Aus New Z	1186¾	− 9⅞	...	9.2
467⅞	373¾	**Aviva**	398½	+ 4⅜	...	52.4
341½	193⅜	Banco Santander	270	+ 8½	...	6.4
3375	1306	Bank of Georgia	3040	+ 25	...	9.4
189⅝	133⅞	**Barclays**	152½	+ 1¼	...	3.7
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	3.7
346	283	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	334	...	...	9.2
14	6¾	Braveheart Inv♦	13¾	+ 1½	...	0.3
515	507	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
337	173⅞	Bridgepoint	219¾	+ 5⅜	...	13.7
65½	32½	Cenkos Secs♦‡	32½	...	...	6.6
325	262½	Chesnara	275½	− 4	...	15.3
53	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+ 1	...	-0.6
474	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	439½	− 1½	...	10.3
1148	858½	Close Bros	940½	+ 33	...	7.0
317	167	CMC Markets	179⅜	+ 1	...	5.4
1038⅞	498½	Commerzbk	813⅞	+ 5¼	...	41.7
1073¼	660½	Deutsche Bk	823¾	+ 8¾	...	9.6
260⅜	135	Direct Line Ins	162¼	− 3⅝	...	6.7
58½	57	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	...	7.7
6½	...	Drumz♦	6½	...	...	...
129⅝	60¾	EFG-Hermes Hldg	64⅞	− 7⅝	...	4.1
211	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	159	...	...	8.9
1232⅞	821⅞	FBD	1113⅞	...	...	4.9
72½	66½	Fiske♦	66½	+ ½	...	11.8
78	59	Frenkel Topping♦	70	...	...	40.7
849	548	Georgia Capital	810	− 10	...	2.2
910	682	Gresham House♦	750	...	...	30.1
506	320	H&T Group♦‡	413	+ 1	...	13.2
55½	33	Hansard Global	51⅞	...	...	17.9
983	740¾	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	805⅜	+ 3⅛	...	14.3
172½	143⅜	Helios Under♦	170	...	...	...
647½	442⅛	**HSBC**‡	593¾	+ 3¼	...	12.9
847½	648	IG Group	681½	+ 9½	...	6.9
883	500	Impax♦	660	− 49	...	21.7
1612	953⅛	Intermed Capital	1390	− 2	...	7.9
114	64⅜	IPF	112	+ 1	...	6.2
170	136	International Public P'ship‡	139¾	+ ¾	...	17.9
546⅜	351½	Investec	429⅝	+ 20⅝	...	10.8
330	253	Investment Co	330	...	...	11.8
88	52½	IP Group‡	55¼	− 1¼	...	2.0
230	94	Jarvis Securities♦‡	152½	...	...	10.9
179½	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	108½	− 1	...	4.0
95¼	55⅞	Just Group	83⅞	− ⅜	...	...
664	368½	Lancashire Holdings‡	623½	+ 4	...	...
284¼	204	**Legal & Gen**‡	228¾	+ ⅝	...	7.0
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	− 2⅝	...	...
1290	704	Liontrust	787½	+ 33	...	9.8
55¼	37½	Livermore Invs♦	38	...	...	2.4
53⅞	39	**Lloyds Banking Group**	44⅝	+ ½	...	6.2
33½	22	LMS Capital‡	24⅜	+ 2	...	10.6
8582	6738	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**	8458	− 92	...	86.4
222⅛	159⅞	**M&G**	198¾	+ ½	...	62.1
286¾	204¼	Man	221	+ 1⅜	...	8.8
29	8	Manx Fin♦	23½	...	...	11.9
3	1	Marechale Cap♦	1½	...	...	0.7
14722	11702	Marsh McLn	14005⅞	+ 33	...	29.1
745	530	Mattioli Woods♦	630	...	...	...
19½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ ¾	...	3.5
153⅛	69	Metro Bank	101	+ ½	...	-0.7
1727¾	1359⅝	Nat Aust Bk	1359⅝	+ 3⅝	...	13.4
309⅞	212⅜	**NatWest**	263⅜	+ 3¾	...	10.3
341	170⅜	Numis♦‡	333	− ½	...	6.7
587½	375⅜	Onesavings Bank	499	+ 5	...	6.6
652	377½	PayPoint	377½	− 8½	...	11.8
6½	¼	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
684⅛	506¾	**Phoenix**	555	+ 2½	...	-6.4
260	136¼	Provident	225	...	...	4.2
1371½	797½	**Prudential**	1091	+ 35	...	17.7
2¼	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	1½	− ¼	...	-8.6
122⅞	80¼	Quilter	84¼	+ ⅛	...	60.2
109¾	51	Randall & Quilter♦	51	...	...	76.1
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	2000	+ 6	...	15.4
1⅛	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	2.0
2050	1370	Rockwood Strategic	2050	...	...	3.0
2540	1905	S & U	2490	− 10	...	11.7
2	⅝	Sancus Lending Grp♦	⅝	...	...	-0.3
56¾	40⅝	Schroder REIT	43⅛	+ ⅜	...	4.5
604⅜	358¾	**Schroders**	455½	...	...	2.1
1304½	920	**St James Place**	1128½	+ 13½	...	21.5
790¾	519½	**Stand Chart**	641½	+ 8	...	14.3
12	7	Starvest♦	7	+ ½	...	-1.1
29	22½	STM Group♦	25	+ ½	...	9.6
4099¼	3210½	Sun Life Can	3917½	+ 14¾	...	10.0
10	5¾	Tavistock Inv♦	7½	...	...	1.2
2590	1158	TBC Bank Group‡	2385	+ 85	...	6.9
16¾	3¾	Tern♦	4	...	...	3.0
29¼	15¼	Time Finance♦	26¾	− 1⅝	...	16.3
1245	900	Volvere♦	1175	+ 40	...	...
42	18½	WH Ireland♦	22	...	...	12.3
31	24	Walker Crips Grp	26	...	...	74.2
3932	2937¼	Wells Fargo	3265⅝	+ 53⅝	...	8.9
1292⅞	1012⅝	Westpac	1075½	− 4⅛	...	14.5
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	29⅛	...	...	91.2
41017⅞	34890¾	Zurich Fincl	...	...	...	...

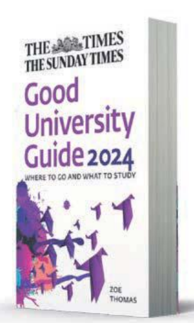
Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
1992½	1042	**3i Group**	1936½	− 19	...	11.6
363	281½	3i Infrastructure	318½	+ 3	...	-6.6
102½	80¼	Abrdn Div I&G	87	+ ¼	...	-25.5
1428	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1256	+ 12	...	-13.2
1046	876	Alliance	984	− 6	...	-6.2
457	345	Asia Dragon Tr	380	+ 6	...	-13.3
228⅞	171½	Athelney Trust	190	+ 5	...	-13.4
206½	171¾	AVI Global Trust	188¾	+ ⅜	...	-10.8
348	204½	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	217	+ 3½	...	-13.2
102⅛	73½	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr	92½	+ ½	...	-14.8
829	657	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	740	+ 14	...	-9.7
168	131¼	Baillie Gifford SN	142	+ 2¾	...	-11.8
183	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	165	+ ¾	...	-14.3
109	90⅞	Bankers	97½	...	...	-11.1
5232	380	BH Macro	408½	+ ½	...	3.2
1048	745⅜	Biotech Growth	835	+ 9	...	-8.7
151	95	BlckRck Com Inc	112⅛	+ ½	...	-9.1
144½	116½	BlckRck Fro Inv	135¼	...	...	-9.0
566	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	538	+ 3	...	-5.3
206	165	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	189	...	...	-8.4
437¼	330	BlckRck Latin Am	375½	+ 4½	...	-14.0
215	179½	BlckRck SustAm	183	+ 1½	...	-5.5
1526	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1308	+ 4	...	-11.8
670	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	588	+ 1	...	-5.1
774	524	BlckRck Wld Min	596	+ 10	...	0.3
325	256	CT Cap&Inc	300½	+ 8½	...	-5.1
121	68½	Balanced Comm Prop	78¾	− 1	...	-32.6
162¾	122	The Glbl Smaller	141⅛	+ ½	...	-13.6
534	375½	CT Priv Eq Ord	472	+ 6	...	-33.4
93¾	60	CT Real Estate	83	...	...	-14.6
90	71	CT UK HIT	84½	+ 2	...	-6.1
93	79	CT UK HIT B	90½	...	...	2.9
356	294	CT UK HIT UNIT	330	+ 1	...	-6.4
1335	1072½	Brown Advsr US Sm	1182½	+ 12½	...	-14.6
1115	888	Brunner	1035	+ 2½	...	-13.1
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv	3430	+ 70	...	-33.6
175	141	Invesco BondInc	161½	− ½	...	1.5
432	366½	City of Lon IT	403	+ 3	...	2.0
121	75	Crystal Amber Fd	81	...	...	-31.9
580	454	Dunedin Entp	560	...	...	-8.3
690	537	Edinburgh IT	654	+ 4	...	-7.0
214	144½	Edin Wwide	147	+ 2⅜	...	-19.0
336	268	EP Global Opp	325	+ 5	...	-10.7
105	74½	European Assets	89⅞	+ ¾	...	-8.1
796	608	European Opp Tr	784	+ 3	...	-10.8
989	769	**F&C Invest Tr**	895	+ 9	...	-6.0
530⅞	413½	Fidlty Asian Val	508	+ 2	...	-2.0
294¼	178⅛	Fidelity China Sp	209½	+ 2	...	-10.3
362	258½	Fidlty Euro Val	346	+ 1	...	-4.7
185	143	Fidlty Jap Tru	178	+ 2½	...	-8.5
293½	232	Fidlty Spec Val	274	+ 4½	...	-7.0
923	731¾	Fins Gwth & Inc	882	+ 3	...	-3.9
118¾	81	GCP Infrastructure	83⅝	− ⅛	...	-24.7
659⅞	552⅝	Gen Emer Mkts	584⅝	+ 4½	...	-13.6
45	28½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	31¼	+ ¼	...	-15.8
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	148¾	− ⅛	...	-9.9
194⅝	161	Hansa Investment	163	− 4	...	-44.6
196	160	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	168	...	...	-44.3
2489	1900	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2160	+ 10	...	-44.1
165½	120½	Hend Euro Foc	153¾	− ¼	...	-10.3
181	137¼	Hend High Inc	168½	+ 1½	...	-0.1
952	674¼	Hend Smlr	792	+ 7	...	-13.1
1966	1540	Herald	1786	− 14	...	-13.8
418	310	HgCapital Trust	397½	− 4	...	-14.0
183⅜	138⅞	HICL Infra	143¾	...	...	-12.3
450	216	Highbridge Tactical	389	...	...	47.5
1223¾	928	ICG Ent Tr	1160	+ 10	...	-39.6
486⅜	373⅛	Impax Env Mkts	402½	− 2½	...	-3.8
374	279	Invesco Asia Tr	325	+ 7	...	-11.7
175	141	Invesco BondInc	161½	− ½	...	1.5
157⅜	110½	IPST Bal	131½	...	...	-12.0
258½	200	IPST Gbl Eq	232	...	...	-12.6
101¾	92	IPST Managed	91	...	...	-16.9
179	141	IPST UK Eq	158½	− 1	...	-12.4
504	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	427½	+ ½	...	-10.1
800	650	JPM American	731	+ 4	...	-4.1
402	222	JPM Asia	346	+ 2	...	-9.6
451½	239½	JPM Chinese	257½	+ 6	...	-11.7
726	624	JPM Claverhs	652	+ 8	...	-5.9
120⅜	91	JPM Em Mkts	104⅛	+ 1½	...	-10.2
449	339	JPM Euro disc	396	...	...	-13.7
142½	107½	JPM GEMI	126½	+ ½	...	-9.8
481	386	JPM GG&I	454	− 2½	...	0.4
898	719⅞	JPM Indian	824	...	...	-17.7
353	301	JPM Jap Sml Co	311½	+ 1½	...	-10.8
510	408½	JPM Japan#	485	+ 9½	...	-9.1
1012	735	JPM Mid Cap	891	+ 11	...	-14.3
103	85¼	JPM Multi-Ass G&I	90¾	− ½	...	-5.1
-0.200	134¾	"JPM Em E	GBX	+ 110½	...	...
315	230	JPM Smllr Co	272½	+ 4½	...	-12.9
244½	174	Keystone IT	210	+ 4	...	-17.3
871	649	Law Debenture	787	− 2	...	2.0
135	99	Lowland	120¾	+ 1¾	...	-9.3
223	156¾	Majedie	192½	+ ½	...	-20.3
354	272⅛	M Currie Port	344	+ 1	...	-0.5
117	89⅞	Marwyn Val In	96	...	...	-42.5
222	158¼	Mercantile IT	201½	+ 2½	...	-14.9
606	480	Merchants	550	+ 6	...	0.7
768	639¾	Mid Wynd	698	+ 6	...	-2.3
1102	875	Monks Inv Tst	983	+ 10	...	-11.1
151⅛	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	138½	+ 1⅜	...	-13.5
890	715	Murray Income Trust	846	+ 4	...	-7.0
275¾	225½	Murray Int	262½	+ 1⅜	...	1.2
85	70½	Nb Global Floating	73¼	...	...	-6.5
384	258	Pacific Assets	367	+ 2	...	-7.3
297½	229⅛	Pantheon Int	273	+ 1	...	-40.4
3115	2295	**Pershing Sq**	2756	+ 8	...	-37.1
501½	463¾	Personal Assets	475	+ 3½	...	-1.0
2288¾	1697½	Polar Cap Tech	2215	+ 5	...	-12.6
202	130	Prem Glb & Inf	141	− 1	...	-12.2
148½	112½	Renewables Inf	120⅛	+ ⅛	...	-10.5
2570	1789⅞	RIT Cap Ptnr	1846	...	...	-22.0
750	530⅜	Riverstone	562	− 6	...	-48.2
457	366½	Schroder TotRt	408	+ 1½	...	-5.5
549¾	446	Schrd Asia Pac	492½	+ 6½	...	-11.7
324	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	297	+ 1	...	-0.4
224	187	Schrod Jap Gwth	220	+ 1	...	-8.9
626	454	Schrod UKMid	538	+ 8	...	-14.8
23⅞	11½	Schroder UK PP Tr	14⅛	+ ⅛	...	-49.0
543	434	Scot American	522	+ 1	...	0.7
937¾	604¾	**Scot Mtge**	672¾	+ 7	...	-18.9
242	205	Secs Tst Scot	214	+ 2	...	-2.7
99⅜	75½	Sequoia Eco	80⅞	+ ⅜	...	-12.4
249½	195⅛	Temple Bar	220½	− 1	...	-5.3
166	128½	Tplton Emg Mkt	147	+ 1⅜	...	-13.9
¼	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	45.8
421	263	TR Property	281	+ 1	...	-7.6
76	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	70⅜	+ ½	...	-2.3
230	122	Utilico Ord	141½	− 2	...	-26.6
229	197½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	219½	+ ½	...	-15.1
712	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	557	+ 6	...	-17.1
237½	199¾	Witan	227	+ 1	...	-7.9
3500	2820	Ww Health	3195	+ 10	...	-10.2

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Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
189	133	Alumasc♦	167½	...	...	8.5
11¼	8⅞	Aseana Props	9¼	...	...	-4.6
71¾	47⅝	Assura	48	...	...	9.6
2¾	1½	Aukett Swanke♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.1
393⅜	247⅜	Balfour Beatty‡	367⅛	...	...	17.4
514	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**	468⅞	+ 6	...	7.3
2500	1586½	Bellway‡	2318	+ 58	...	6.9
4504	3165	**Berkeley**	3987	+ 61	...	10.3
1426	987	Big Yellow Group	1157	+ 7	...	7.6
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	405	...	...	32.9
345	218	Boot (Henry)‡	240	+ 6	...	12.8
536	324¾	**Br Land**	345⅝	+ 2⅝	...	47.3
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
64¾	43¾	Cap & Regnl‡	59¾	+ ¾	...	-0.5
2550	2310	Cardiff Prop‡	2430	+ 60	...	26.4
25	2½	Carecapital♦	5¾	− ½	...	-0.6
170	106	Clarke T‡	151¼	+ 1¼	...	10.8
291⅜	191⅝	Countryside Partner	229¾	+ 14	...	16.7
28⅜	6	Craven House♦	13⅝	...	...	-0.2
4353	2756½	**CRH**	3827	+ 21	...	15.9
3022	1876	Derwent London‡	2150	+ 2	...	9.5
4	3	Dolphin Capital♦	3⅞	...	...	-2.7
31½	22	First Prop♦	27	− ½	...	...
47½	37½	Fletcher King♦	37½	...	...	...
44	27¼	Foxtons Group	37¾	+ ½	...	...
185⅛	145	Galliford Try	179	− 1⅛	...	39.7
470	252½	Genuit Group	320½	+ 3	...	19.4
574	335	Gleeson (MJ)	428	+ 5	...	6.6
988⅝	630½	Grafton	824⅞	+ 9	...	9.5
312¾	205⅜	Grainger‡	246¾	− 1½	...	15.3
658½	409⅛	Great Portland‡	482⅛	− 1⅛	...	-6.0
30½	17⅛	Hammerson	25¼	+ ½	...	-2.7
171	101	Harworth Gp	122½	+ 4	...	4.2
630	425	Heath (Samuel)♦	425	...	...	8.8
431½	255	Helical PLC	255	+ 11½	...	6.1
1065	865	Highcroft Invs‡	865	...	...	3.7
208⅛	148¼	Ibstock	162⅛	+ 2	...	21.0
234	176	James Halstead♦‡	215	+ 1	...	22.9
849	591	Keller‡	668	− 11	...	7.7
6786	3903½	Kingspan Group	5470⅝	+ 51½	...	21.5
774½	485¼	**Land Sec**	607⅛	+ 5⅛	...	...
100¼	58	Life Science Reit	74	− 1⅜	...	...
25	12	Lon & Assoc	12	...	...	-1.6
261	161¾	Londonmetric Property‡	179⅞	...	...	3.8
61¾	37	Macau Prop Op	60¼	+ ½	...	-7.8
545½	225⅜	Marshalls‡	293¾	− 9⅛	...	10.7
114½	74	Michelmersh♦	92½	+ ½	...	14.7
2120	1392	Morgan Sindall	1860	+ 40	...	9.1
13900	10800	Mountview	11150	+ 200	...	13.9
99½	68¼	NewRiver REIT	83½	+ 1⅛	...	-2.9
291	195	Palace Capital	234	...	...	11.2
335	260	Panther Securities♦	290	− 10	...	2.6
2254	1138½	**Persimmon**	1222½	+ 21	...	4.9
5½	2	Pires Investments♦	2	...	...	-4.4
65	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
148½	98⅝	Primary Health Properties	100½	+ ¾	...	10.2
38½	28¼	Real Estate Invs♦	30	+ ¼	...	3.9
585	372½	Redrow	489⅜	+ 7	...	6.0
1177	794	Safestore	946½	+ 12	...	5.3
1190	763½	Savills	907½	− 2½	...	9.0
6¼	5⅝	Secure Property♦	5⅝	...	...	14.8
1129	694	**Segro**	806⅛	+ 8½	...	2.3
44⅜	27¾	SIG	38¾	− 1⅛	...	...
69	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	60	+ ¾	...	...
116⅜	66½	Sirius Real Estate	83	+ 1	...	6.4
173½	160½	Smart (J)‡	164½	...	...	4.5
50	30½	Steppe Cement♦	36	...	...	8.2
132⅜	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	115¼	+ 1	...	7.5
178½	129	Town Centre‡	137	+ 3	...	5.4
1223½	738	Travis Perkins	877½	+ 4⅜	...	8.5
204¾	125⅝	Tritax Big Box Reit‡	141⅛	+ 1⅛	...	2.5
98¼	57	Tritax Eurobox‡	60	...	...	...
306½	184½	Tyman	268	...	...	10.5
1207	791½	**Unite**	898	+ 3	...	10.4
938½	519½	Vistry Group‡	743½	+ 20½	...	6.5
165	91	Warehouse REIT	102	+ 1	...	2.4
722	343⅜	Workspace Grp	508	+ 5	...	-7.5
755	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	675	...	...	4.8

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5¾	1	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦	32	...	...	11.8
952	740	Anglo-Eastern‡	804	− 54	...	7.3
306	147½	Animalcare♦	181½	...	...	...
2070	1237	**AB Foods**‡	1827½	+ 2	...	30.2
121	79	Bakkavor Group‡	92¾	+ 2¾	...	9.6
561	432	Barr (AG)‡	506	+ 1	...	17.9
3⅞	1½	Bidstack Group♦	1¾	...	...	-1.5
67	24½	Brand Architekts♦	33½	...	...	-1.4
3628	2557½	**Brit Amer Tob**	2557½	+ 3	...	8.6
936	707½	Britvic‡	885	+ 1	...	20.0
2641	1580	**Burberry**	2135	− 19	...	18.3
207	131	C&C Grp	143	− 2⅜	...	-8.5
6⅜	2⅛	Capital Metals♦	2¼	...	...	-0.6
145¼	92	Carr's Grp‡	145¼	...	...	17.9
535	296	Character Grp♦	312	+ 10	...	5.5
1640	1070	Churchill China♦‡	1375	...	...	...
2565	1674	**Coca Cola HBC**‡	2369	− 19	...	18.9
880	610	Colefax♦	752½	...	...	13.3
3340	2586	Cranswick	3338	+ 88	...	17.6
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3960	3344½	**Diageo**	3344½	− 2½	...	25.7
1⅜	⅜	Distil♦	⅜	...	...	11.8
1000	770	Evans (M.P.)♦‡	770	− 4	...	6.6
103½	68	Finsbury Food♦	92	...	...	10.9
9920	5690	Games Workshop	9410	− 50	...	25.9
1229⅞	844¼	Glanbia	1171½	+ 24	...	28.8
114½	60¾	Greencore	80⅛	...	...	16.0
348	231	Headlam‡	248	+ 7	...	10.6
1132	500	Hilton Food‡	685	− 44	...	14.3
31½	22	Hornby♦	23	...	...	...
2185	1716½	**Imperial Brands**‡	1716½	+ 21½	...	5.7
1½	1¼	J Lewis Hford♦	1⅜	...	...	8.2
9458⅞	7255¾	Kerry Gp	7930¾	+ 116	...	21.9
35	15½	McBride	30¼	+ ⅝	...	-5.4
305	205	Mulberry Group♦	255	...	...	10.5
1332½	970	Nichols♦	970	− 10	...	...
249	165	Norcros	172¼	+ ¾	...	5.4
380½	296	Origin Ents♦‡	296¾	− 25¾	...	9.3
14½	⅛	Pittards♦	6¼	− ⅛	...	2.9
512½	300	Portmeirion♦	418	...	...	17.7
⅞	½	Provexis♦	½	...	...	0.3
221	170⅜	PZ Cussons	185	+ 1	...	21.3
161	89½	REA	89½	+ ¼	...	-7.0
2⅜	1	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
340	235	Tandem♦‡	240	...	...	3.4
904	507	Treatt	682	− 13	...	27.3
3¼	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2	− ¼	...	-1.3
5051	4092½	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
4443½	3475½	**Unilever**‡	4018	− 11	...	20.6
596	317	Victoria♦	553	+ 23	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1200	739	Avon Rubber	879	− 21	...	...
367½	268½	Babcock	309⅛	+ 1	...	-1.9
1032	714	**BAE**	944¾	+ 16½	...	17.2
2150	1300	Braime A N/V♦	1350	+ 50	...	15.2
1750	1500	Braime Group♦	1750	+ 100	...	19.7
602½	500	Caffyns	550	...	...	7.9
5	1⅛	Cap XX Ld♦	1⅛	...	...	-2.6
380	279	Castings	378	...	...	18.2
5	3	Chamberlin♦	3	...	...	-0.2
36	14	Checkit♦	24½	...	...	-2.9
560	391	Cohort♦	480	− 10	...	42.6
400	190	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1390	1020⅜	Dewhurst♦	1075	...	...	12.3
340	192¼	Dialight	230	...	...	...
1301½	859½	Electrolux 'B'	1065¼	+ 5⅞	...	8.0
182½	85½	Feedback♦	115	− 2½	...	...
940	426	Gooch Hsego♦	554	− 6	...	41.0
4490	2400	Goodwin	4430	− 110	...	24.4
2498	1876½	**Halma**	2413	+ 4	...	34.9
1470	893	Hill & Smith‡	1470	+ 14	...	34.5
121½	71½	Holders Tech♦‡	76	...	...	4.6
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	2⅛	...	...	12.6
1674	1071	IMI	1607	+ 13	...	21.9
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10025	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9480	− 260	...	47.8
90½	72½	LPA♦	90½	+ 3½	...	...
798¾	768⅛	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
510⅜	286½	**Melrose**	488⅜	+ 16¾	...	...
325	217	Morgan Advanced	286½	− 3½	...	12.0
433	227½	Mpac♦	247½	...	...	6.5
745	260	MS Intl♦	570	+ 68	...	81.4
2855	1720	Oxford Inst	2765	...	...	37.7
2116⅛	1055⅜	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
17½	12¼	PipeHawk♦	12½	...	...	26.6
89½	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦	40	...	...	-3.3
4338	3342	Renishaw	4026	− 20	...	22.9
31	20½	Renold♦	28⅛	+ ½	...	10.0
158	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	146⅜	+ 3	...	99.5
1¾	⅝	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
342⅛	229½	Rotork	324½	+ 3½	...	35.2
200	133	SDI Group♦	133	+ 3	...	21.9
181⅛	111	Senior	169	+ 1½	...	29.4
66	48	Severfield	63⅜	+ 1⅛	...	11.3
15½	6⅞	Six Hundred♦	6⅞	...	...	40.2
1618⅜	1089¾	SKF B	1271¾	− 2½	...	9.4
300	215	Slingsby (HC)♦	300	...	...	4.9
1797½	1364	**Smiths**	1611	+ 5	...	25.6
1435	986	Solid State♦	1110	...	...	26.7
470	324	Somero Enter♦	325	+ 1	...	7.2
3841	2690	Spectris‡	3695	+ 15	...	12.1
12350	9130	**Spirax-Sarco**	10925	...	...	34.4
57½	28½	Surface Trsfms♦	34	− 1½	...	...
3½	1½	Tanfield♦	3⅛	...	...	-9.0
440	345	Thorpe FW♦	371	+ 5	...	25.8
2⅝	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
95½	48½	Transense Tech♦	86½	+ ½	...	63.6
3500	3070	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	...	37.4
435	284½	Vesuvius	413½	+ ⅜	...	11.0
1530	673	Videndum	673	− 4	...	12.3
323½	202	Volex♦	271½	+ 8½	...	14.8
2021	1328½	**Weir**‡	1715½	+ 21	...	28.9
3290	1464	XP Power	2120	+ 35	...	11.3
160	97½	Zytronic♦	102½	...	...	34.1

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1103	Abcam♦	1226	+ 123	...	...
316	219½	AdvancedMedical♦‡	226½	+ 2½	...	35.6
22	5	Allergy Therap♦#	6¼	+ 1¼	...	-7.3
150	16½	Angle♦	18¼	...	...	-2.4
603	185	Anpario♦	194	+ 15½	...	10.2
12294	9656	**AstraZeneca**	11670	+ 10	...	...
36	29	Circassia Group♦	34	...	...	34.0
248½	199	**Convatec**	209	+ 6⅛	...	48.8
58⅜	25⅜	Creighton	37	+ 2	...	7.1
3810	2520	Dechra Pharma	3374	+ 34	...	50.3
1½	¾	Deltex Medical♦	1⅛	...	...	-7.0
23	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	16½	− ⅛	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	112½	...	...	13.6
51	24⅝	EKF Diagnostics♦	28¼	+ ¼	...	8.0
56⅞	28⅛	Futura Medical♦	41⅛	− ¾	...	...
3272	2298	Genus	2518	− 10	...	44.8
1820⅝	1296	**GSK**‡	1347½	+ 1⅛	...	15.5
½	¼	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	3.7
353½	246⅛	**Haleon**	321⅝	+ 3⅜	...	...
1874	1190½	Hikma Pharms	1792	+ ½	...	13.4
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	199¼	+ 6	...	...
...	...	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	...	...
6⅞	1½	ImmuPharma♦	3⅛	...	...	-0.9
7025	1365	Indivior	1450	− 5	...	83.0
105	42	Inspiration Health♦	45	...	...	6.9
41½	17½	IXICO♦	19½	− ½	...	6.2
501½	378⅜	Mediclinic	501	+ ½	...	31.3

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
3½	1½	N4 Pharma♦	1⅝	...	...	-2.0
88.63	87.65	Novartis	CHF88.06	...+ 0.09		
4	2¼	Omega Diags♦	2½	...	...	-0.9
11	4¾	Ovoca Bio♦	7¼	...	...	-2.0
562	297	Oxford Biomedica	457	+8½	...	20.5
5	2	Physiomics♦	2⅛	...	...	-8.2
5¼	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	4⅞	+⅛	...	...
6808	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**	6280	+34	...	...
63½	31⅜	RUA Life Sciences♦	41	...	...	-3.9
223	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	117½	+2½	...	...
1321½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1201½	-½	...	27.2
250	203	Spire Hcare‡	227½	+4½	...	...
35	7⅜	Synairgen♦	8⅜	-½	...	-0.3
70	42	Tissue Regenix♦	51	...	...	...
46½	15½	Totally♦	19⅜	-⅛	...	30.7
420	295	Tristel♦	362½	+5	...	74.7
25¾	8⅞	ValiRx♦	9¼	...	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
128¾	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	73	+2⅜	...	...
4700¼	3379⅛	BASF	3857¾	+37⅜	...	7.6
5804⅞	4124	Bayer DM50	4464¼	-20⅝	...	52.1
195	46½	Biome Tech♦	117½	+7½	...	-3.9
3⅝	1½	Byotrol♦	1⅞	...	...	...
7	6¾	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp	68⅝	-⅝	...	15.3
7482	5908	**Croda**	6140	+40	...	26.7
1125	575	Cropper (James)♦	860	-20	...	26.2
129	87⅝	Elementis	106⅜	-¾	...	...
27½	11	Hardide♦	12½	...	...	-2.4
2373	1762	**Johnson Math**	1762	+32	...	22.2
1705	1242	**Mondi**	1252	+7	...	9.5
100	77½	Robinson♦	95	...	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**	307	+3¼	...	17.4
747	447	Swire Pacific	538	-1	...	...
19	6¾	Symph Environ♦	6⅞	-¼	...	...
332¾	88	Synthomer	89¾	...	...	1.8
2684½	2050	Takeda Pharm	2550¾	-2¼	...	14.3
7	2¼	Velocys♦	2¼	...	...	-2.9
1931	1504	Victrex‡	1567	+18	...	18.6
651	425	Wynnstay Group♦	432½	-2½	...	9.9
410	233	Zotefoams‡	351½	+1½	...	21.1

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
210⅜	51⅝	888 Hldgs	70⅜	+½	...	5.2
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	732	+6	...	19.2
680	370	Best of the Best♦	565	...	...	6.3
1011½	501⅜	Carnival	813½	+30	...	-1.3
130½	108	Celtic♦	127½	...	...	12.6
28¼	¾	Cineworld	⅞	...	...	...
339	215⅛	Domino's Pizza	281	+1¾	...	14.3
1587½	1075½	**Entain**	1319	...	...	29.5
16725	7614	**Flutter Ent**	15710	-25	...	...
32¾	22	Gaming Realms♦	31¾	+1¼	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	135	+25	...	8.1
145	120	Hermes Pacific♦	120	...	...	...
5784	4193	**InterContinental Hotels**	5338	+70	...	50.0
1¼	¾	Minoan Gp♦	1⅛	...	...	-8.1
214	102	Mitch & Butlers	206⅛	+1½	...	...
218	92½	On The Beach	99	+¾	...	-5.2
1600	1020	PPHE Hotels	1080	-5	...	-8.7
112	52⅜	Rank Grp	97	...	...	13.1
56½	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	43½	-1⅜	...	-8.2
50½	30½	Rotala♦	45½	-1	...	...
25	15½	Sportech♦	18¼	-¼	...	...
277⅞	184¾	SSP	268¾	-⅜	...	-5.2
5¾	1⅞	Tasty♦	2⅞	...	...	3.9
295	65	Tintra♦	87½	-5	...	-1.5
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	519½	+10	...	-5.4
3⅛	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
783½	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	731½	-2	...	-6.8
3330	2285	**Whitbread**‡	3311	+25	...	...
1308	870	Young & Co - A♦	1180	...	...	...
835	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	830	+24	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
⅝	⅛	7digital Gp♦	⅝	...	...	-5.7
88	52½	Aeorema Comms♦	78½	...	...	21.7
48	20½	Altitude Group♦	40	...	...	...
85½	70½	Arcontech Grp♦	71½	-1	...	9.8
315½	176⅛	Ascential	225½	+1	...	...
675	486⅛	**Auto Trader**	608½	-21⅜	...	30.0
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	401	-9	...	16.5

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
8	3¼	Bonhill Group♦	5½	...	...	...
172½	71	Catalyst Media♦	140	+2½	...	...
¼	⅛	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Daily Mail‡	270	-2½	...	10.3
150	100	DCD Media♦#	100	-30	...	5.0
64	43	Ebiquity♦	46½	...	...	...
1466	1030	Euromoney In Inv	1460	+2	...	...
2006	731½	Future	731½	+9½	...	12.5
1400	930	GlobalData♦	1330	-10	...	65.8
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
196	46½	IG Design Grp♦	137½	-5	...	20.1
729	501¾	**Informa**‡	697¾	+¾	...	...
90	55⅛	ITV	70⅜	+½	...	7.5
10¼	4⅛	Jaywing♦	4⅜	-¼	...	...
8⅝	1¾	Live Company Gp♦	2⅜	-¼	...	-0.5
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-5.5
46½	26½	Merit Grp♦	43	...	...	...
52½	3	Mirada♦	3	...	...	-0.1
68½	42	Mission Group♦	50	...	...	8.4
280⅜	168⅞	Moneysupermarket	252⅜	+1⅛	...	25.7
1740⅝	1212	News Corp A	1495	+17¾	...	24.4
1756¾	1237⅞	News Corp B	1510	+18⅞	...	24.6
1146	755	Next 15 Comms♦	799	-25	...	...
995⅛	734½	**Pearson**	809¾	+11½	...	38.7
107	69⅛	Photo-Me	107	+5	...	18.6
4⅜	2	Primorus Inv♦	2¾	...	...	5.1
187½	108½	Quarto	172	...	...	9.5
124	67	Reach‡	72⅛	-¼	...	80.1
1⅜	¾	REACT Grp♦	1¼	...	...	18.2
2722	2081	**Relx**‡	2542	+32	...	33.5
663	445⅜	**Rightmove**	531⅜	+7¾	...	30.0
140	65	SpaceandPeople♦	82½	-2½	...	...
315	245	STV Group	251	-4	...	6.1
310	122½	System1 Group♦	180	...	...	8.6
3009⅜	2283¾	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2536⅝	+19¼	...	13.9
2785⅝	2154	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2368	+11¼	...	12.9
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.3
356	222	Wilmington	278	...	...	17.7
1051½	725¾	**WPP**	864⅜	+10½	...	16.4
116½	77½	Zinc Media♦	102½	-2	...	-6.4

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1	⅜	ADM Energy♦	⅝	...	...	...
⅛	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
33⅞	15¼	AFC Energy♦	15¼	...	...	...
...	...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	⅛	...	...	-2.6
¾	⅜	Alien Metals♦	⅜	...	...	...
90⅛	64	Alumina	72¼	-3⅜	...	15.0
1¼	⅝	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.4
1¾	⅛	Amur Mins Corp♦‡	⅛	-1½	...	-5.4
718509¾	389768⅞	Anglo Amer Plat	...	...	...	...
4017½	2278½	**Anglo American**	2299½	+76	...	4.5
121	64	Anglo Asian Mng♦	99½	-5½	...	8.6
1805	991½	**Antofagasta**	1380	+42½	...	14.2
4⅞	2⅞	Arc Minerals♦	3¼	...	...	2.3
3⅞	2⅜	Ariana Res♦	2⅜	...	...	3.3
¾	⅜	Arkle Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.2
3¼	1¼	Armadale Cap♦	1¼	...	...	...
2	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1	...	...	...
402½	188	Atalaya Mine♦	304	-2	...	3.8
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
6	1¾	Beowulf Mining♦	1¾	...	...	-7.6
⅛	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.8
2855	2034	BHP Group	2243	+32½	...	9.8
5⅜	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2¾	...	...	...
21¼	13⅝	Bougainville	19¼	...	...	...
4¾	1	BowLeven♦	1	...	...	-1.3
567½	363⅞	**BP**‡	461½	+8⅛	...	16.7
16⅝	8½	Cadence Min♦	8½	-¼	...	0.8
2⅝	1⅝	Cadogan Petrol	1⅝	...	...	23.6
1350	825	Caledonia Mining♦	1025	+10	...	10.0
555¼	192⅜	Capricorn Energy	194⅜	-1⅛	...	1.5
8⅜	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	6⅛	...	...	...
125½	74⅜	Centamin‡	101½	+1	...	15.7
292½	186⅛	Cent Asia Metals♦	186⅛	+½	...	5.4
15¼	7⅜	Chaarat Gold♦	11	-⅛	...	...
23	13½	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	15	-⅜	...	...
6	1¼	China Nonferr Gold♦	1¾	...	...	...
⅜	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-1.8
34½	15¼	Condor Gld♦	27½	...	...	...
1¼	⅛	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
10134⅞	3690¼	DRD Gold	...	...	...	...
1¼	¼	ECR Minerals♦	⅜	...	...	-2.5
19	4¾	Edenville Energy♦	7½	+2	...	-0.5
1⅜	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	¾	...	...	-5.7
2184	1461	**Endeavour**	2180	+28	...	32.4
32⅝	14⅞	EnQuest	14⅞	+⅛	...	0.9
8	2¼	Eurasia Mining♦	2⅞	+⅛	...	...
3	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1¼	...	...	11.3
193⅛	91⅞	Ferrexpo	91⅞	-¼	...	0.7
968	644	**Fresnillo**	677⅛	+29⅛	...	16.0
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	17½	Galantas Gold♦	17½	...	...	-2.9
7¼	2¾	GCM Resources♦	2⅞	...	...	-2.4
58½	22⅝	Gem Diamonds	23¼	+⅞	...	2.4
28¾	12⅛	Getech♦	13¼	...	...	-3.1
578	400	**Glencore**‡	416⅞	+5⅜	...	15.2
½	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-2.0
133233⅞	53016⅜	Gold Fields	...	...	...	...
12½	7⅜	Goldplat♦	7⅜	-⅛	...	5.6
8⅛	2½	Goldstone Res♦	2¾	+⅛	...	...
13¼	6½	Greatld Gld♦	7¾	-⅛	...	...
96½	70	Griffin Mining♦	86⅞	+½	...	9.5
310	129⅝	Gulf Keystone	135¼	+3¾	...	8.4
25⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	13¾	...	...	1.1
115¼	51½	Hochschild	76⅞	+1	...	7.4
168	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	134	-1	...	...
356½	187½	Hunting PLC	217	-2	...	-5.5
106½	15½	IGas Energy♦	15⅛	+¾	...	-0.7
⅜	...	Independ Res♦	...	...	...	...
317	195	Indus Gas♦	195	...	...	20.2
¾	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-5.0
313½	68½	ITM Power♦	68½	-⅝	...	...
15¼	7	Jubilee Metals♦	7	...	...	5.9
2¾	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	2½	-⅛	...	...
1	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅝	...	...	-2.6
495	380½	Kenmare Res	441	-5½	...	5.1
27½	5¾	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
23½	10⅞	Landore Res♦	10⅞	+⅛	...	-2.4
½	⅛	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅛	...	...	-4.0
16	12½	Leeds Group♦	12½	...	...	-2.0
8¾	1⅞	Lexington Gold♦	8	...	...	...
21½	3⅛	MC Mining♦	8⅞	+⅛	...	-1.8
2¼	¾	Metals Explorn♦	1½	...	...	2.7
⅝	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G#	10	+¼	...	...
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	-5⅜	...	60.3
⅛	⅛	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
¼	...	Oriole Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-1.9
⅞	½	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
17⅛	3⅞	Orosur Mining♦	3⅞	-⅛	...	-5.8
21⅛	12¾	Pan African Res♦	14¼	+½	...	4.6
140¼	15⅛	Pantheon Res♦	15⅛	-½	...	...
79	20¼	Parkmead Grp♦	21½	...	...	-1.8
⅝	⅜	Pathfinder Mins♦	⅜	...	...	-3.5
120	64¾	Petra Diamonds	68	+2½	...	2.2
2¾	1¼	Petrel Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-6.6
7	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	4⅞	...	...	...
150⅜	46	Petrofac	70¾	...	...	-1.8
1⅛	...	Petroneft Res♦	...	...	...	-0.3
1¾	⅞	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	-⅛	...	1.6
7½	3¾	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+¼	...	-1.6
4½	1⅝	Plexus Holdings♦	2⅞	...	...	-0.7
350	168	Polymetal Intl	195	+10	...	...
698	499	Porvair‡	650	+6	...	25.0
19¼	3¾	Prospex Energy♦	8¼	...	...	...
14⅝	8½	Proton Motor Power S♦	9¾	+1¼	...	-1.7
4	1¾	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	1	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	1½	-⅛	...	-5.8
27¼	2	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
⅜	⅛	Reabold Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-2.6
⅝	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.7
6777¾	4632½	Rio Tinto Ltd	5608⅞	+21⅞	...	5.8
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**	4886	+104	...	5.1
41⅛	19⅞	San Leon Energy♦	27	-2	...	10.1
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
47	22½	Serabi Gold♦	27¼	...	...	3.7
450	207½	Serica Energy♦	217	-½	...	...
13½	8½	Shanta Gold♦‡	11½	+⅛	...	7.2
2604½	1936⅜	**Shell**‡	2248	+27½	...	11.8
2½	⅞	Sound Energy♦	1¾	...	...	11.4
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	...
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	...	...	...	-2.9
⅝	⅛	Thor Mining♦	¼	...	...	-1.7
5323	3891⅜	Total Eng SE	4632	+67	...	10.6
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.9
57⅛	22½	Tullow Oil	24⅜	-⅜	...	2.4
⅛	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-2.0
416	135	URU Metals♦	150	...	...	4.8
⅞	⅛	Vast Res♦	½	...	...	-0.1
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3¾	2⅛	Westmount Engy♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
251⅝	104½	Wood Grp (J)	141⅝	+1	...	-5.8
6⅝	⅜	Woodbois♦	⅜	...	...	1.6
5¼	1¼	Xtract Resources♦	1½	...	...	-2.6
7¼	3⅝	Zephyr Energy♦	3⅝	...	...	-4.7

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5090	2240	4imprint Grp‡	4700	+95	...	79.3
587½	460	Andrews Sykes♦‡	587½	+5	...	18.7
5874	3359	**Ashtead**	4949	+49	...	24.0
17½	⅞	Asimilar Group♦	1	...	...	...
120	51	AssetCo♦	51	-½	...	0.3
53½	38½	Avisen♦	49½	-1	...	...
148	117	Begbies Traynor♦	122	-1½	...	...
207	155	Blancco Tech♦	161	...	...	57.7
3225	2575	**Bunzl**‡	3150	+6	...	23.9
42⅝	22⅝	Capita	34⅜	+1	...	2.6
45	36	CEPS♦	39	...	...	-8.8
150	105½	Christie Group♦	121	...	...	51.4
2235	1641	**Compass**	2214	+12	...	53.8
252	97	CPPGroup♦	191½	...	...	...
75	47¼	Croma Security♦	47½	...	...	6.8
5656	4030	**DCC**‡	4643	+46	...	15.3
104	39⅜	De La Rue	39⅜	+⅝	...	5.1
3084	2158	Diploma‡	3008	-24	...	53.8
914	597	Discoverie	790	...	...	64.7
34½	23½	Driver Group♦	31½	-1½	...	15.0
325½	175⅛	Essentra‡	180¾	-2	...	20.3
3160	2285	**Experian**	2842	+10	...	36.4
12380	8680	Ferguson	11580	-95	...	17.1
274	215	FIH Group♦	274	...	...	...
11	5¼	Grafenia♦	9⅝	-⅞	...	-7.1
588	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	398	+4	...	4.1
735	450	Impellam Grp♦	710	...	...	38.8
19⅜	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4743	3619	**Intertek**‡	4197	+43	...	23.5
251⅜	115⅜	IWG	148⅝	+3¼	...	-5.6
125⅜	77	Johnson Srvce♦	108⅛	...	...	67.6
181½	106	Journeo♦	163	...	...	36.5
81⅞	56½	Kier Gp	80	+2½	...	7.8
1400	1080	Latham (J)♦	1255	+5	...	6.8
1032½	695	Lok'n Store♦‡	890	-10	...	26.9
3750	2300	Lon Security♦	2900	+150	...	16.0
366	220	LSL Prop Services‡	252	-13	...	7.0
125½	86	Macfarlane‡	109½	-½	...	12.7
315	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	142½	+2½	...	4.3
2200	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	19½	...	...	...
247	182	Mears Group	241½	+½	...	21.0
608	590	Menzies (John)	607	-1	...	48.0
94⅞	55	Mitie Gp	89⅜	+½	...	44.7
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	5	...	...	3.7
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	53½	...	...	...
6½	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	6¼	...	...	...
61½	37	Northern Bear♦	49½	...	...	5.0
286	217	NWF Grp♦	259½	...	...	...
491½	362⅛	PageGroup‡	439¾	+4¾	...	11.8
68	46	PCI-PAL♦	56½	...	...	...
12	6⅞	Petards♦	7⅛	-⅜	...	12.9
26½	13	PHSC♦	13½	...	...	24.5
2¼	⅝	PowerHouse Egy♦	⅝	...	...	-1.1
98	61	Record	86¾	+¾	...	23.8
437½	283½	Redde Northgate	373½	...	...	9.3
757	555	Renew Hldgs♦	717	+2	...	17.7
851	489	Renewi	525	-9	...	11.1
649⅛	445	**Rentokil**	637	-1½	...	45.1
466	247	Restore♦	247	...	...	29.4
600	338½	Ricardo	564	+4	...	50.3
600	408	Robert Walters	435	+2	...	9.9
20	11½	Roebuck Food Grp♦	15½	+1	...	2.3
239	96¾	RPS Group	221	-1	...	...
1159	788¾	**RS Group**	796⅜	-⅛	...	20.2
24	16	RTC Group♦	17	...	...	...
408⅜	229⅛	RWS Hldgs♦	229⅛	+⅛	...	21.0
440	365	Science Group♦‡	405	...	...	18.6
188¼	144¾	Serco‡	144¾	+1⅞	...	5.9
57½	27½	Smiths News	53	...	...	5.1
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	2872	+18	...	13.1
50	32½	Staffline Gp♦	33½	-1⅜	...	25.7
484½	317½	SThree‡	379	+6	...	12.2
137½	95	Synectics♦	107½	...	...	...
29⅜	21⅝	Thruvision Group♦	25	...	...	-9.0
94	35	Tribal♦	38⅞	...	...	12.1
86	49	Vianet♦	75	-1½	...	...
950	615	Vp	640	-2½	...	15.7
2⅜	1	Westminster♦	1½	+⅜	...	-1.9

Real estate

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
162⅝	95½	Shaftesbury Cap	120¼	+⅜	...	35.3

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
81¼	37⅞	AO World	67	+2¼	...	...
529⅜	295½	**B&M European**	529⅜	+19½	...	12.3
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	28	...	...	8.2
112½	40⅜	Card Factory	89⅞	+2¾	...	...
2192	1549	CVS Group♦	2078	-14	...	58.2
194	104¾	DFS Furn	119½	+3½	...	6.3
1275	670½	Dunelm	1117	+27	...	15.0
949½	600	**Frasers Group**	684	+11½	...	30.4
2904	1673	Greggs	2714	+28	...	23.7
229⅜	124⅝	Halfords	204⅜	+1¾	...	6.8
743½	480⅞	Howden Joinery	661⅛	+5⅛	...	12.4
941	666	Inchcape‡	775½	+13½	...	26.2
4¼	1⅝	IQ-AI	2½	...	...	-7.4
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	152¼	+¼	...	18.4
291½	203	**Kingfisher**‡	234	+3	...	5.8
94¼	61½	Lookers‡	84	+3	...	5.4
184¾	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	181¾	+3⅛	...	...
11⅛	5¾	Mothercare♦	5⅞	...	...	-3.6
371	75½	Naked Wines♦	111	+1⅜	...	...
7076	4383	**Next**	6404	+58	...	12.2
952½	352⅜	**Ocado**	352⅜	-16½	...	...
28⅜	14⅞	Pendragon	17	-¼	...	5.3
395	257¾	Pets at Home	383⅛	+8⅛	...	15.6
227⅜	72⅞	Saga	114	+2⅜	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	272¾	+2⅛	...	22.9
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1596	+26	...	...
27¼	14¼	Sosandar♦	25	+1	...	...
1½	1¼	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	-2½	...	2.4
142	69½	Ted Baker	109¾	...	...	...
284½	199⅛	**Tesco**‡	260⅞	...	...	13.2
53½	38	Topps Tiles	53½	+1½	...	9.7

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
108	62½	Access Intell♦	76½	...	...	...
136½	17	Aferian plc♦	17	-½	...	3.0
185	126	Alfa Financial‡	162	+½	...	25.3
20¼	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+3⅛	...	-1.2
430	321	Aptitude Software‡	340	-3	...	38.2
265	126½	Bango♦	208½	...	...	...
42½	21	BATM Adv Coms	24¾	+1	...	10.4
26½	14¼	Berkeley Res	23½	...	...	...
21½	6	Blackbird♦	6¼	...	...	-9.9
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	1	...	...	-2.5
2624	1810	Computacenter	2316	-4	...	14.3
90½	65½	Concurrent Tech♦	65½	...	...	15.5
12¼	5¾	Corero♦	6¼	...	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1430	+15	...	65.2
3¼	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	2⅝	...	...	18.0
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	15⅝	-⅛	...	...
276½	174	D4t4 Solutions♦	174	-3½	...	20.6
⅛	...	DeepMatter Gp♦	...	...	...	-0.1
22½	13	Dillistone Group♦	18½	-1	...	-5.3
¾	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-2.2
976	599	FDM Group	686	+15	...	23.8
16¾	9	Filtronic♦	13	...	...	35.1
2300	1230	First Derivts♦	1766	-54	...	...
647	281½	GB Group♦	296	-½	...	22.6
180½	136	GreshamTech	145	+1	...	...
91	24¼	Ilika♦	44	...	...	...
132½	79½	Ingenta♦	104½	...	...	61.1
77	38	Intercede♦	52½	+½	...	18.1
200	112	Iomart♦	161⅜	+7⅛	...	17.7
59⅞	20⅝	IQE♦	20⅝	-1½	...	...
152½	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	126	+4½	...	-2.1
1686¼	1053⅞	LG Electronics	1613⅝	+161¼	...	4.2
¼	⅛	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-2.9
532	256¼	Micro Focus Intl	532	+½	...	-5.6
70½	45	MTI Wireless♦	48	...	...	15.9
55¾	17¼	Nanoco Gp	18	-⅛	...	...
112½	62½	Netcall♦	112½	-2	...	...
51½	35	Northamber♦	37	-1	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	13¼	...	...	-6.9
112½	78½	Oxford Metrics♦	92	...	...	40.0
9	4½	Parity♦	4¾	...	...	-7.0
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	37	...	...	...
634½	390¾	Playtech	604	+3	...	6.3
394⅛	322	QinetiQ	357½	-1¾	...	27.9
146	20½	RM	92	+⅝	...	18.4
869⅜	595½	**Sage**‡	869⅜	-1½	...	33.3
8¼	5¼	Seeing Machines♦	5⅝	...	...	...
139	50	Shearwater Grp♦	60½	...	...	37.4
63	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	43½	...	...	-4.5
1441	1071	Softcat	1386	+21	...	27.1
286⅛	168	Spirent Comms	178⅝	-¾	...	16.6
64	24¾	SRT Marine♦	64	+4½	...	...
610	400¾	Tele. Ericsson	418⅜	+2⅜	...	7.6
102½	72½	Touchstar♦	97½	...	...	...
1047½	860	Tracsis♦	890	-15	...	...
20½	12¼	Trakm8♦	15	...	...	...
160	81	Triad Grp	160	...	...	17.5
1380	250	Wandisco♦#	1310	...	...	...
916	415	Water Intel♦	422½	...	...	23.2
236	144½	Xaar	176	-½	...	...
7¾	⅛	Yourgene♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
207½	101½	Zoo Digital♦	123	-1	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
170⅞	104½	**Airtel Africa**	121¼	+2	...	10.8
196½	112	**BT Group**	148⅝	+1¾	...	14.4
87⅝	51	Currys plc	51	+½	...	2.4
1210	1012	Gamma Comms♦‡	1150	-2	...	20.8
144¼	91	Helios Towers	91	+¾	...	-8.2
2215½	1103½	Just Eat T'away	1166	-43	...	-2.5
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.4
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1⅝	...	...	-9.7
2500	1532	Telecom Plus	1532	+12	...	39.2
131⅜	76⅛	**Vodafone**	76⅛	-⅛	...	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
340	234	Braemar Ship	284	-1½	...	9.4
535⅛	285	EasyJet	472¼	+1	...	-2.9
10⅞	4½	Esken Limited	5¼	+¼	...	-0.2
139½	93½	FirstGroup	115½	+⅝	...	27.5
407	251	Fisher (James)	370	+3	...	-6.7
173½	93⅝	**International Airlines**	156	+1½	...	-3.4
328⅞	183⅛	IDS	196⅛	-½	...	2.2
439¼	310¾	Irish Cont Uts‡	404	...	...	...
...	...	Jet2♦	1225	+29	...	-6.5
272½	106¾	Natl Express	106¾	...	...	-6.3
1050	820	Ocean Wilson‡	830	-2	...	4.2
105	104¼	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24	19½	Sutton Harbour♦	20½	...	...	...
404½	192⅜	Wincanton	250	+2½	...	6.7
3158	1357½	Wizz Air	2794	+18	...	-6.3

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
119⅞	67¼	**Centrica**	119⅞	+2¼	...	12.1
258	248½	ContourGlobal	251	+½	...	28.3
793	473⅜	Drax Group	553¾	+⅜	...	41.0
582½	457	Jersey Electricity‡	475	-2	...	9.0
1186½	858⅜	**National Grid**‡	1055½	-50½	...	24.6
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	9¼	+½	...	6.0
1070	755	Pennon	783	+9½	...	56.7
⅝	¼	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
3003	2213	**Severn Trent**‡	2707	-66	...	...
1900	1428	**SSE**	1880	-1½	...	7.3
1145	828⅛	**United Utilities**	1032	+19½	...	94.6

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Thu 9	**Stornoway, Isle of Lewis**
Fri 10	**Tobermory, Isle of Mull**
Sat 11	**Belfast, Northern Ireland**
Sun 12	**Ringaskiddy, Ireland**
Mon 13	**St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly**
Tue 14	**St. Peter Port, Guernsey**
Wed 15	**Le Havre (for Paris), France**
Thu 16	**Arrive in London Tilbury**

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Fri 7	**Honfleur, France**
Sat 8	**St. Peter Port, Guernsey**
Sun 9	**St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly**
Mon 10	**Cobh (for Cork), Ireland**
Tue 11	**Holyhead, Wales**
Thu 13	**Tobermory, Isle of Mull**
Fri 14	**Stornoway, Isle of Lewis**
Sat 15	**Kirkwall, Orkney Isles**
Mon 17	**Arrive in London Tilbury**

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Superior Junior Suite	SJS	~~£4,769~~	£2,939
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JUNE 2024

Sun 30	**Embark *Ambience* and depart London Tilbury**

JULY 2024

Tue 2	**Kirkwall, Orkney Isles**
Wed 3	**Stornoway, Isle of Lewis**
Thu 4	**Portree, Isle of Skye**
Fri 5	**Tobermory, Isle of Mull**
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Thu 11	**St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly**
Fri 12	**St. Peter Port, Guernsey**
Sat 13	**Portsmouth, England**
Sun 14	**Arrive in London Tilbury**

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Elain Harwood
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Obituaries

Evan Jones

Self-mocking Jamaican poet, playwright and screenwriter who was best known for King and Country, but refused to be pigeon-holed

An essentially reserved man, Evan Jones studiously avoided the spotlight. In his professional life as a poet, playwright and screenwriter, he preferred to be judged by the quality of his work rather than his ability to network. When he did have moments in the limelight, he liked to send up the experience by telling self-mocking stories.

So with regard to his film *King and Country* — about a First World War soldier awaiting execution for cowardice, starring Dirk Bogarde and Tom Courtenay, and nominated in 1965 for a string of Baftas — Jones would remember how they had been put on a table at the front of the auditorium at the award ceremony, only to sit becalmed in their seats as those from further back came up on stage to claim all the honours.

And after his flight home from Los Angeles, where he had been working, encountered such severe turbulence that he feared for his life, he joked that if the aircraft that was carrying both him and Tom Stoppard (they were on nodding terms) had crashed, the headlines the next day would be full of Stoppard and only mention in passing in the final sentence: "A Jamaican writer also died."

In Jamaica, where he was born, he was best known for his poem, *The Song of the Banana Man*. First broadcast on the BBC World Service's Caribbean

A fellow student told him a 'proper' poem couldn't be written in a dialect

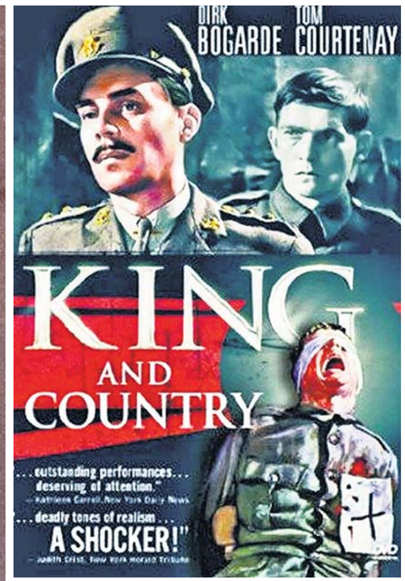
Voices in 1952 when he was still a student at Oxford, it was radical at the time because it blended Jamaican patois into the rhythm of the English canon and remains part of the school curriculum in Jamaica as a beloved expression of national pride and identity.

So much so, that whenever its first lines are quoted in public on the island — "Touris, white man, wipin his face,/ Met me in Golden Grove market place", the rest of the room will quickly join to complete the first verse. "He looked at m'ol' clothes brown wid stain,/ An soaked right through wid de Portlan rain,/ He cas his eye, turn up his nose,/ He says, 'You're a beggar man, I suppose?'"

Though he retained his Jamaican accent all his long life, and returned regularly, building himself a home by the sea there in the 1970s that he named Capricorn, Jones spent most of his adult life in Britain and, occasionally, in the US (from whence his Iowa Quaker missionary mother hailed). In these adopted homelands, his name is associated with something else altogether: his pioneering writing for theatre and television and an impressive list of screenplays for big, commercial films that stretch through the decades from 1957 until the 1990s.

Despite being no party animal, for much of the 1960s Jones was much in fashion, the go-to film-writer who seemed to have a big new film coming out most years. They spanned a range of genres: thriller (*Eva* in 1962); sci-fi (*The Damned*, 1963); war (*King and Country*, 1964); comedy (*Modesty Blaise*, 1966); and spy caper (*Funeral in Berlin*, 1966). None carried any particular echo of his own experiences, but *Two Gentlemen Sharing* (1969) did. A ground-breaking British drama starring Robin Phillips and Hal Frederick, it was about an upper-class white Englishman confronting his prejudices when he ended up sharing a flat with an Oxford-educated black Jamaican. In Britain it was given an X certificate because the censors feared it would incite race riots, but it was shown at the Venice Film Festival and was celebrated in France and the US. It has only in recent years re-emerged as a cult classic with showings at the British Film Institute.





Jones's poem The Song of the Banana Man is considered a beloved expression of national pride. King and Country was nominated for a number of Baftas in 1965

Alongside his more commercial work there was a strong campaigning thread running through Evans's other projects. His first television success, *The Widows of Jaffa* (1957), was based on his time in the Gaza Strip post university, working in refugee camps. In 1975 he appeared in front of the camera to introduce his own six-part BBC drama-documentary series, *The Fight Against Slavery*, which won the Martin Luther King Award the following year.

Evan Gordon Newton Jones was born at the end of 1927, one of seven children of Gladys Smith and Fred M Jones, a prosperous self-made farmer of sugar cane and bananas who was of mixed parentage. Mr Fred M, as he was known, refused to allow the snobbery of colonial Jamaica to hold him back, joining the elite yacht club and owning the island's first Rolls-Royce.

The family home, Stone Haven, at Portland was, Jones wrote in 1999, a kind of Garden of Eden "before the flaming sword". He and his siblings — one older brother Kenneth went on to be a cabinet minister in Jamaica's first post-independence government — all had horses named after Greek gods which they would race on the nearby beach. He recalled his mother with a hymn book always in her hand as she headed for church and his father reciting poetry "on the back of a mule".

If he inherited his mother's energy and work ethic, he did not embrace her religion. As teenagers he and a cousin got into trouble for laying bets on who would speak first in Quaker meetings. Gambling was abhorrent to the Society of Friends. Jones became an atheist. His father gave his son a first-class education: secondary school at Munro College in St Elizabeth on Jamaica, founded in 1856 on the English public school model; a first degree in liberal arts at Haverford College, a Quaker establishment in Pennsylvania where he excelled in academia and in sport, notably the high jump, earning himself the nickname "the educated toe"; and then reading English at Wadham College, Oxford, where he wrote *The Song of the Banana Man* to settle an argument with a fellow student from the Caribbean who said a "proper" poem could not be written in a dialect.

He had been married while at university in the US to Honora Fergusson, the daughter of his professor. The ceremony took place in the back garden of a friend of her family, J Robert Oppenheimer, "the father of the atomic bomb", but the marriage ended in divorce seven years later.

The lost Wake in Fright negative was found and remastered by Scorsese

His time in America had opened his eyes to other manifestations of racism. When he arrived and went to the station to take a train to Haverford, the platform was divided into areas for "whites" and "coloureds". It stuck in his memory always. He hadn't known which to choose and hadn't wanted to choose either.

In 1956, on his return from Gaza, he made Britain his base. *The Widows of Jaffa* launched his career as a screenwriter. *A Backward Country* followed in 1958 for the BBC, examining the experience of the Caribbean diaspora.

Among his close friends was the Irish actor and screenwriter Brian Phelan. The two would regularly play poker in Battersea. At one gathering in 1963, Jones spotted the English actress Joanna Vogel across a crowded room. As they told it subsequently, their eyes met. Jones then almost got into a fight with another man over which of them would drive Vogel home that night, but prevailed. When they arrived at her house, she took her time opening the car's door handle to give him a chance to overcome his gentlemanly inhibition and ask her for a date. It was the start of a great love affair that lasted until his death.

After the arrival of their daughters Melissa and Sadie in 1965 and 1967, the family lived first in World's End and then Putney in London, and from 1983 at Twinhoe in the countryside outside Bath, where Jones was able to indulge his lifelong love of horses.

In the 1970s his credits mixed film with television. His screenplay for *Wake In Fright*, about a young schoolteacher stranded in a menacing town in rural Australia, was nominated for the Palme D'Or at the 1971 Cannes Film Festival.

It also attracted controversy over a hunting scene in which kangaroos were shot and killed. That had an impact on its box office takings and later the master negative was lost. It was rediscovered in a tin on the floor of an editing room in New York, and remastered under the auspices of Martin Scorsese, who was a great admirer of the work. In 2009 it was entered again at Cannes, this time for the Cannes Classic award.

It illustrates the narrow gap between triumph and adversity in the film business. That played out too in Jones's career. Passion projects he undertook for film versions of the lives of Muhammad Ali, the singer Paul Robeson and Simón Bolívar, the Latin American leader who threw off the Spanish colonial rule, all eventually came to naught when the finances couldn't be raised.

At one stage, Jones toyed with moving to Los Angeles, but stayed instead in the English countryside. His successes continued well into the 1980s. *Escape to Victory* (1981) brought together Pelé and Sylvester Stallone in a Second World War drama about a football match between Allied prisoners and German camp guards. *Champions* (1984) was based on the story of the jockey Bob Champion (played by John Hurt), who came through cancer treatment to win the 1981 Grand National on Aldaniti.

When film work dried up in the 1990s, he produced a semi-autobiographical novel, *Stone Haven*, and continued his daily routine at his writing desk on other projects that were never made. He and his wife eventually moved back to London and were on hand to celebrate the success of their daughters' books — Sadie's debut novel, *The Outcast*, was shortlisted for the 2008 Orange prize — and the arrival of his grandchildren. For the last decade, he lived with dementia. He is survived by his wife and two daughters and their children.

Though one of the first writers of Jamaican descent to make a name for himself at the BBC, Jones always refused to be pigeon-holed. An early passport, he told his daughters, had a space left for a description and the word "swarthy" had been inserted by an official, but Jones only ever saw himself as an outsider, standing back, observing and writing about what he saw.

Evan Jones, poet, playwright and screenwriter, was born on December 29, 1927. He died on April 18, 2023, aged 95

Register

Elain Harwood

Architectural historian at English Heritage who championed the beauty of brutalism in the face of calls to bulldoze the 'eyesores'

As a Brownie Elain Harwood visited the recently completed Nottingham Playhouse, looked up and said: "Wow." For a girl from nearby Beeston growing up in the 1960s, mid-century modern concrete and glass temples really were a brave new world.

Twenty years later, the grammar school-educated Harwood had overcome the various prejudices against her sex and background to become one of the foremost architectural historians of the postwar period. As head of postwar buildings at English Heritage (now Historic England), she was responsible for recommending listings to dubious secretaries of state for culture, media and sport who were mindful of the fact that the public at large viewed them as eyesores fit for the bulldozer.

An articulate, spritely and fiercely determined figure, Harwood would criss-cross the country by train and visit buildings on her bicycle, converting passers-by to the "heroic beauty" of imposing residential towers, fortress-like libraries, glass box swimming baths, spiral-ramp car parks, arching bus stations and other municipal buildings. At first sight, many saw ugly, monolithic lumps of concrete, but Harwood had a gift for explaining to the layperson why such buildings were ingenious in their planning and execution, precious monuments to the decades of hope and rebuilding after the war.

For example, she described Ralph Erskine's Byker Wall housing estate in Newcastle as "a potent mix of colour and plans and levels and materials", the arching concrete of Newbury bus station or Wythenshawe bus garage in Manchester as exemplars of municipal elegance, while the interiors of Bevin Court housing estate in north London were "a treasure". These were among the buildings she had catalogued over the years and featured in her award-winning magnum opus *Space, Hope and Brutalism: English Architecture 1945-75* (2016).

Henrietta Billings, director of Save Britain's Heritage, said that Harwood played a big role in winning acceptance for modern municipal buildings as part of the country's heritage.

"The rising levels of public interest in brutalism and other previously unloved periods of modern architecture are largely down to her," she said.

Elain Harwood was born in 1958 in Beeston, Nottinghamshire, to Harold Harwood, an engineer who had managed the team that made the mechanism for the Bouncing Bomb during the war, and married his colleague Maureen Chadwick. Their daughter attended Bramcote Hills Grammar School in Beeston and studied history at the University of Bristol, where she helped to organise gigs at the student union and developed an enduring interest in punk and new wave bands. Harwood was already indulging her singular passion for modern architecture by exploring the city's buildings on a bicycle.

After passing the civil service exams, she joined the Department for the Environment in 1984 and then began

She called Newcastle's Byker Wall estate a 'potent mix of colour'

working for the department that would become English Heritage. In 1987 she assumed responsibility for what had been the historic buildings division of the now defunct Greater London Council.

On day release she studied building conservation at the Architectural Association and returned to Bristol to complete a PhD on the buildings of London's South Bank.

English Heritage set up its Post-War Listing Steering Group in 1992 and later appointed Harwood head of postwar buildings, investigating the structures that the group identified and making listing recommendations to ministers.

Times were changing in the heritage world, as exemplified in 1995 when Harwood helped to put together the

DANIEL HAMBURY/EYEVINE



Harwood would visit buildings on her bike, converting passers-by to their appeal

case that recommended a blue plaque at the former home of Jimi Hendrix in Brook Street, Mayfair, the first one for a rock musician.

However, many within government thought that the postwar buildings group was a "licence to save eyesores" while the owners of the buildings themselves often complained that they were no longer fit for purpose, would cost millions to restore and would only be a white elephant at the end of it.

Often the only woman in meetings, Harwood refused to be bullied or patronised and could be outspoken. "While sometimes getting on the wrong side of management by upsetting ministers in conveying truth to power, she was the single major force during those years of changing attitudes to modern architecture. She was not easily cowed," said her former colleague Martin Cherry.

There was particular concern that as English Heritage's senior architectural investigator for postwar buildings Harwood should be seen to be objective. As such she was forbidden to campaign for organisations such as the Twentieth Century Society. When the conservation of Robin Hood Gardens housing estate in Poplar, east London, designed by Peter and Alison Smithson, became a cause célèbre in the architecture profession, Harwood was effectively gagged by her bosses.

In 2002 the New Labour government, wary of potentially harmful headlines about "saving eyesores", scrapped the Steering Group. Thereafter, postwar buildings could only be put forward for listing if they were under threat of demolition.

Harwood lost several battles against the bulldozer in these years. The much-hated Tricorn shopping centre in Portsmouth was demolished in 2004, and the Trinity Square car park in Gateshead — made famous by a car chase scene down its spiral ramp in the 1971 crime film *Get Carter* — was demolished in 2010. Yet, even in such an unpromising environment, Harwood succeeded in achieving listed status for the Park Hill estate in Sheffield (grade II* listed in 1998); Preston bus station (grade II listed in 2013), and Dunelm House, the student union building at Durham University (grade II listed in 2021).

In later years Harwood devoted herself to lecturing around the world, giving tours of brutalist architecture on her bicycle and teaching on the University of Cambridge's MSt course in building history. Overall, she wrote or contributed to more than 20 books, including *Brutalist Britain: Buildings of the 1960s and 1970s*, her love letter to a form of building that she insisted had been much misunderstood, "natural materials honestly expressed".

Harwood was given an honorary fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects (Riba) last year. Her personal favourite postwar building was the 1963 Leicester Engineering Building designed by James Stirling. That the Riba's annual architectural prize would be named after him was a testament to her success in putting postwar buildings at the forefront.

Elain Harwood, architectural historian, was born on June 10, 1958. She died suddenly of undisclosed causes on April 19, 2023, aged 64

Sir Alan Bailey

Astute civil servant in the Treasury and Department of Transport who influenced every administration from Heath to Major

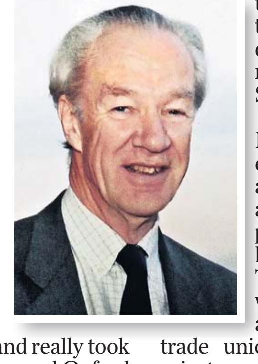
He was known by Margaret Thatcher as "the strong, silent Mr Bailey" — a description the senior Treasury official Alan Bailey later described as "like most snap judgments, barely 50 per cent accurate".

His taciturn approach to Thatcher's meetings did not signify a lack of ideas. In the great tradition of civil service verbal caution, Bailey may not have joined vocally in policy debate. There was, however, no doubting his knowledge and influence in areas such as inflation, public spending and privatisation.

"I don't think he ever warmed to her, nor she to him," recalled one of his official colleagues. "But true to the best civil service tradition, that didn't make him any less committed to providing the best possible service and advice within the political context in which we all had to work."

Bailey's high-level experience of "political context" extended back to the Heath administration of the early 1970s, through the Wilson and Callaghan governments and continued — in his final role as permanent secretary in the Department of Transport — into the Major government, which succeeded Thatcher's.

He retained throughout an interest in the principles underlying good government, appropriately for someone who came close to following a career in academic philosophy. Alan Marshall Bailey was born in 1931 in Rushden, Northamptonshire, where his parents ran a shoe-making business. On leaving school he won a scholarship to Oxford, but first came National Service in the Royal Artillery. He recalled "cold barrack rooms, too little sleep, horrible food served in mess tins" and the company of "foul-mouthed, heavy-smoking, working-class adolescents (I was the only one who wore pyjamas to go to bed). It was a crash course in social realism".



Studying politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford he picked up useful knowledge about institutions and really took to "philosophy, in the approved Oxford linguistic style" with tuition in such arts as the "subtle destruction of arguments".

After two years as a postgraduate he decided in 1956 to accept a job at the Treasury having been asked in his interview to summarise Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* "in a sentence".

In the mid-1960s he spent a year at Harvard as a Harkness Fellow, studying how the US used economists in deciding about public expenditure. The fellowship also enabled him to travel around the US with his wife, Stella Scott, whom he had married in 1959, and their young family. They had three sons: Simon who became a technology consultant, Justin, a property developer, and Quentin, a technology programme director. After his first marriage ended he married Shirley Barrett.

Back at the Treasury in London Bailey worked in the early 1970s during the Heath administration on areas such as inflation and pay rates for public sector workers. "I learnt," he recalled, "that Treasury under-secretaries were not very skilled negotiators facing wily industrial trade unionists." When he became private secretary to the chancellor Anthony Barber there were opportunities for less than exotic foreign travel to international financial meetings. At one he remembered "queueing at the lunch buffet alongside a gloomy Frenchman who said, 'I have not eaten so badly as this since the war'".

European encounters became more common as the UK joined what was then the European Economic Community. Bailey worked on the conversion of British sales tax into EEC-compatible VAT and, after Harold Wilson became prime minister, on attempts to renegotiate the terms of Britain's EEC membership. He was later in charge of Treasury European policy under Denis Healey. His calmness under pressure was valued during the 1976 IMF crisis when he co-ordinated contingency plans in case the IMF did not grant Britain an emergency loan.

After Thatcher won power in 1979, Bailey became directly involved in discussions about the radical reshaping of economic policy and the role of the state. He was seconded for a time to the Central Policy Review staff. One report he wrote anonymously discussing contingency planning in case ministers decided unemployment had gone too high attracted the prime minister's angry attention. Bailey said a friend in No 10 "claimed to have saved my career by naming no names".

Another report by a team he led on restraining public spending covered options including charging for NHS services which caused a row within the Thatcher cabinet. In 1983 he was put in charge of the Treasury's public services sector, overseeing fierce debates between government departments as they clamoured for increased spending while resisting savings in lower-priority areas. Philosophically, Bailey reflected later, his work was focused on the political mechanisms for "weighing the disinclination of voters to pay more tax against their collective wish for more/better public services", balancing the views of politicians and service practitioners and avoiding overcentralisation in spending decisions.

In 1986 Bailey was knighted and took on his final civil service role as permanent secretary at the Department of Transport. He was taken aback when his first minister, Nicholas Ridley, lectured him at length about the Romans' approach to road mending.

After retiring in 1991 Bailey worked in non-executive roles for London Transport and London Buses. His leisure interests included countryside walking, writing poetry and early classical music.

Through adult education in Oxford he also enjoyed in retirement resuming his philosophical studies. "When I decided in 1956 to give up philosophy and join the Treasury," he concluded in a private memoir entitled *Meandering Mandarin*, "I wrote to my parents (sententiously) that I intended to get stuck in and 'try to be wise'. I am still trying."

Sir Alan Bailey, civil servant, was born on June 26, 1931. He died on April 22, 2023, aged 91

Court Circular

Buckingham Palace
1st June, 2023
The Baroness Ashton of Upholland was received by The King this morning when His Majesty invested her with the Insignia of a Lady Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

His Excellency Mr Andrew Gomez was received by The King upon his appointment as High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas in London.

Mrs Alison Brittain (Chairman, The Prince's Trust Group), Mr John Booth (Chairman, The Prince's Trust Council), Mr Jonathan Townsend (Chief Executive, The Prince's Trust) and Mr Shabir Randeree (Chairman, The Prince's Trust International) were received by His Majesty.

The Queen this morning visited the British Racing School, Snailwell Road, Newmarket, to mark its Fortieth Anniversary and was received by the Lady de Ramsey (Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire).

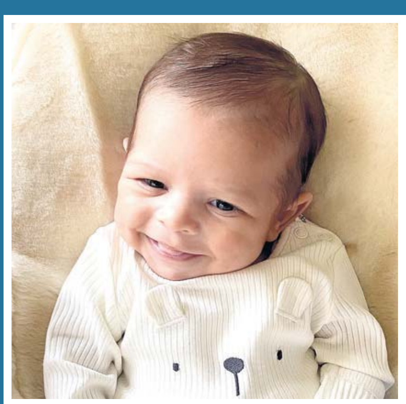
Her Majesty, Patron, the British Sporting Art Trust, this afternoon attended a Reception at Palace House, Newmarket, and was received by the Hon Peter Stanley (Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk).

Kensington Palace
1st June, 2023
The Prince and Princess of Wales were present at the Marriage of The Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with Miss Rajwa Al Saif which took place at the Zahran Palace, Amman, Jordan, this afternoon.

St James's Palace
1st June, 2023
The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Logistic Corps, this morning attended the Freedom of the City of Winchester Parade at Guildhall Winchester, the Broadway, Winchester, to mark the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Corps, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving in Winchester Cathedral and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mr Nigel Atkinson).

Kensington Palace
1st June, 2023
The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Pestalozzi International Foundation, this afternoon received Mr Aaron Eckhoff (Chairman), Mr Edmund West-Burnham (Chief Executive Officer) and Miss Margaret Alexander (Scholarship, Alumni Liaison and Development Fund Manager).

The perfect gift for new parents



CILLIAN FRANCIS DUNKLEY WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 19, 2022, AT PETERBOROUGH CITY HOSPITAL IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE TO KATE WALSH AND JAMIE DUNKLEY

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THE TIMES

Births, Marriages and Deaths

BEHOLD, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43.19 (AV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

CAHILL-NICHOLLS on 22nd May 2023 to Ellie and Ben, a daughter, Flora Lavinia Mary, sister to Hector.

HEDGES on 2nd May 2023 to Faye (née Duffy) and William, a daughter, Maud Charlotte Angela, sister to Oscar and Bertie.

Marriages

MS A. LOE AND MR L. WYER
The marriage took place on 27th May 2023, at St Dubricius Church, Whitchurch, between Alicia and Lloyd after a celebration in Kalami, Corfu, on 28th May 2022.

Deaths

ARIS Stephen died peacefully on 27th May 2023 at home surrounded by his family. The beloved husband of Peptia and father of Ben, Dan and Luke, he was a distinguished journalist who served as a foreign correspondent in Spain, the US and Poland, as well as a columnist for The Sunday Times for over two decades during the paper's heyday. He was also the author of half a dozen well-received books, mainly focused on business. A memorial service for friends and family will be held in Oundle, near Peterborough, on June 28th at 2pm. Contact: luke.aris@gmail.com

BEECH
Joan, beloved mother of Guy and grandmother of Patrick, passed away on the 16th May after a short illness, aged 97. The funeral service will take place at 1.30pm at the Old Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich, on the 7th June. Family flowers only. Donations may be sent directly to the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice Ltd, which can be done via their website.

BOYLE David Spencer died peacefully on 20th May 2023, aged 81, in his sleep. Beloved husband of Melanie, loving father of Fenella and Jamie, and grandfather of Leonora. Funeral at St Mary Magdalene Church, Duns Tew, at 2.30pm on Wednesday 21st June. Family flowers only.

BROWN Rev Anthony Palmer died peacefully on 8th May 2023, aged 91. Much-loved uncle and great-uncle. Fondly remembered by friends and parishioners in Chiswick, Sunbury-on-Thames and Ditchling. Thanksgiving service at St Cosmas and St Damian Church, Keymer, West Sussex on Friday 9th June at noon and funeral at St Mary's, Sunbury-on-Thames, at 11am on Wednesday 14th June. Inquiries to Lodge Brothers, Sunbury-on-Thames.

BURGE Hugo Aylesford died suddenly, aged 51, on 10th May 2023. Private funeral. No flowers please but donations if wished to Marchmont Makers Foundation. A thanksgiving celebration of his life to be held at Marchmont House in September 2023. Send inquiries to office@marchmonthouse.com

CAFFYN Rev Dr Douglas John Morris passed away on 17th May 2023, aged 86. Funeral service will take place at Barham Crematorium, Canterbury, on Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 11.20am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Water Aid c/o CW Lyons & Son, 70 Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1ND. Tel: 01227 463508.

CARTY Kathleen Christobel (née Silcox) passed away peacefully on 30th May 2023, aged 88. Beloved mother to Michele and Nicole. Amazing Gaga to Jack, Lucy, Anna and Lydia. You can shed tears that she is gone, or you can smile because she has lived.

EVANS Sybil Hamer passed away peacefully in her sleep on 17th May shortly before her 94th birthday. A ray of sunshine to everyone who knew her, she will be sadly missed, especially by her surviving sisters and all family members. Funeral service on 7th June at 4.15pm at Shrewsbury Crematorium. Family flowers only.

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HODSON
Prof Margaret Ellen died peacefully on 29th May 2023, aged 79, in her own home with her friends around. She was greatly respected in her medical field (cystic fibrosis, CF). She was appointed OBE and received the European CF research medal and worked tirelessly for CF patient care. She was a lay minister in the Church of England and assistant chaplain at the Royal Brompton Hospital.

HOY Michael Robin FCA passed away peacefully on 22nd May 2023, aged 87. Beloved husband of Susan, loving father of Christopher and Charlotte, and grandfather of Isabelle, Jack and Luke. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Funeral service to take place at the parish church of St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, on Tuesday 13th June at 1.30pm. Family flowers only but donations, if wished, to Rennie Grove Hospice Care c/o Wright Funeral Services, 106 High Street, Great Missenden HP16 0BE.

JAMESON
Ralph Anthony died peacefully on 29th May 2023, aged 99. Beloved husband of Anne for 66 years, devoted father of Leonie (who predeceased him), Mark and Andrew, and much-loved grandfather of Priyanka, Rohan, William and Tom. Lt Cdr RNVR and Fleet Air Arm pilot. Funeral service at 2pm on Friday 23rd June 2023 at St Mary's Church, Cerne Abbas, Dorset. No flowers but donations if desired to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity c/o Woods Funeral Services, 11A Icen Way, Dorchester DT1 1EW. Tel: 01305 250425.

JONES Delyth Ann died peacefully on 19th May 2023, aged 81. Beloved sister of Cainwen and much loved by the rest of her family Keith, Sian and David. Rest in peace.

MCANDREW Nicolas died peacefully at home on 26th May 2023, aged 88. Beloved husband of the late Diana, dearly loved father of Charles, Mark and Fiona, and grandfather of seven. All inquiries to William T Fraser & Son. Tel: 01463 243232.

NELSON Anthony George, formerly of Sunderland and Durham, died peacefully at Belmont Grange Care Home on 23rd May, aged 87. A much-loved father to Guy, Emma and Julian. Friends please meet for a service at Durham Crematorium on Friday 9th June at 10.30am. Family flowers only.

PLOWDEN
Valerie Ann (née Bush) died peacefully on 20th May 2023, aged 98. Beloved wife of the late William (Billy) and dearly loved mother of Roger, Jackie, Francis and Charles, grandmother of ten, and great-grandmother of three. Funeral at noon on Tuesday 13th June at St Walburga's RC Church, Plowden SY7 8AG. Space limited so please contact the family if wishing to attend. Donations to www.alzheimersresearchuk.org

PONSONBY Carolyn Mary on 25th May 2023, peacefully in her sleep in France. Only daughter of Edward Ponsonby, 2nd Baron Sysonby, beloved of family and friends, sister to Michael and John. Cremation in Nîmes on Saturday 3rd June at noon. Donations to WWF and RSPCA.

ROBINS John died peacefully at home on 14th May 2023, aged 88. Beloved husband of Charlotte, father of Tracey and Julian, and grandfather of Jessica, Noah, Joe, Leah and Luca. Private family funeral at his request.

RUTHERFOORD Hope on 21 May, in Salisbury. Committed and loved sister, aunt, great-aunt, nurse, health visitor and friend to so many. Funeral at Emmanuel Church, Salisbury, on Friday 30 June at 1pm. Donations in lieu to Parkinson's UK. Inquiries to IH Newman. Tel: 01722 413136.

SAUMAREZ James Philip de Havilland died peacefully at home on 28th May 2023, after a short illness, aged 85. Much-loved husband of Carol, father of Bill and Vicky, and step-father of Kate and Andy, and grandfather of seven. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Memorial service to be arranged.

WALKER Alan Francis Charles on 21st May 2023, aged 100. Much-loved husband, father and grandfather who enjoyed life and lived it to the full. Funeral to be held on 19th June 2023 at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath. No flowers please. Inquiries to W Adlam Funeral Directors, Frome.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

The board of directors of the company hereby invites you to attend the annual general meeting of the company (the "Meeting") to be held on 21 June 2023 at 10:30 a.m. CET at the registered office of the company at 2, rue Edward Steichen, L-2540 Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg with the following agenda:

AGENDA

1. Presentation of the reports of the Board of Directors and of the Approved Statutory Auditor for the financial year ended 31 January 2023;
2. Approval of the audited financial statements for the financial year ended on 31 January 2023;
3. Approval of the allocation of the result of the financial year ended on 31 January 2023;
4. Discharge of all Directors with respect to the performance of their duties for the financial year ended 31 January 2023;
5. Re-appointment of Mr Udo Sutterlüty, Mr Colin Moor and Mr Daniel Thiel as Directors until the next annual general meeting of shareholders to be held in 2024;
6. Appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers, Société coopérative as Approved Statutory Auditor until the next annual general meeting of shareholders to be held in 2024;
7. Conflict of interest statement.

Resolutions will be passed by simple majority of the votes cast at the Meeting. The majority will be determined according to the shares issued and outstanding at midnight (Luxembourg time) five calendar days prior to the AGM (referred to as "Record Date"). The rights of the shareholders to exercise the voting right attached to their shares in the Company will be determined by the number of shares held by the shareholders on the Record Date.

In case you are not able to attend this Meeting in person please return a proxy form completed and signed **no later than twenty-four (24) hours before the Meeting** in PDF format by email (CorpSec_VPFLU@vpbank.com).

The audited annual report can be obtained free of charge from the Management Company.

The Board of Directors

BLUEFIN INSURANCE GROUP LIMITED
Company No. 03251684
formerly: VENTURE PREFERENCE LIMITED; DIPLEMA 334 LIMITED
Trading Address: 1 Tower Place West, Tower Place, London, EC3R 5BU
(In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)

We, Malcolm Cohen and Stacey Brown both of BDO LLP, 55 Baker Street, London, W1U 7EU were appointed Joint Liquidators of the Company on 23 May 2023. Creditors of the Company are required, on or before 4 July 2023 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to the Joint Liquidators, and, if so required by notice to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice. Please note that this is a solvent liquidation. The directors of the Company have made a declaration of solvency and it is expected that all creditors will be paid in full.

For further details contact: Pauline Durrant, Email: Pauline.Durrant@bdo.co.uk or Tel: 020 7486 5888. Ref: 00426864

Malcolm Cohen, Joint Liquidator

LIBERTY PRINTERS (AR and AF REDDIN) LIMITED ("Liberty")
Company No. 02920033
CAPITA GAS REGISTRATION AND ANCILLARY SERVICES LIMITED ("CGRASL")
Company No. 05078781
(Both in Members' Voluntary Liquidation) ("the Companies")
Trading Address: 65 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7NQ

As Joint Liquidators of the Companies we, Richard Barker and Samantha Keen both of Ernst & Young LLP, 1 More London Place, London, SE1 2AF (appointed 23 May 2023), hereby give notice that we intend to make final distribution to their creditors. The last date for proving is 11 July 2023 and creditors of the Companies should by that date send their full names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to me, Richard Barker of Ernst & Young LLP, 1 More London Place, London, SE1 2AF. In accordance with Rule 14.38(1)9c) of the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016, we may thereafter make the proposed distribution without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not yet proved.

Contact details for Joint Liquidators, Tel: 020 7951 6477. Alternative contact: Melanie Hellmuth.

Richard Barker, Joint Liquidator

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call: 020 7481 4000

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion.

NOTICES UNDER THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925
VOLVO GROUP UK RETIREMENT PLAN ("PLAN")
THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925, SECTION 27

Notice is hereby given under section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that the Volvo Group UK Retirement Plan commenced winding up 3rd April 2023. The Trustees of the Plan wish to trace any person who believes they may be entitled to benefits from the Plan and who has not already received written correspondence from the Trustees in relation to its wind-up. Anyone who believes that he or she is a member of the Plan but has not already been contacted by the Trustees about the winding-up, or anyone who believes they have any other interest, claim or entitlement in relation to the Plan but has not already been contacted by the Trustees about the winding-up, should write and provide details of their membership, interest, claim or entitlement to the Volvo Group UK Retirement Plan, for the attention of Mr David Onion. When contacting the Trustees please provide full name, any former names by which you may have been known, date of birth, National Insurance number and details of the period of employment with Volvo Group UK. Details must be sent within two months of the date of the publication of this notice. After the expiry of the two month period the Plan shall be wound up and the Trustees of the Plan will have regard only to claims of which they have prior written notice and will not be liable in respect of any person whose claim has not been notified to them in writing within two months of the date of publication of this notice.

JELF COMMERCIAL FINANCE LTD
(Company Number: 04333281)
Principal Trading Address: c/o BDO LLP, 5 Temple Square, Temple Street, Liverpool, L2 5RH

Malcolm Cohen and Stacey Brown of BDO LLP, 55 Baker Street, London, W1U 7EU were appointed Joint Liquidators of the Company on 19 May 2023. Creditors of the Company are required, on or before the 4 July 2023 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the Joint Liquidators, and, if so required by notice, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice. Note: Please note that this is a solvent liquidation. The director of the Company has made a declaration of solvency and it is expected that all creditors will be paid in full.

Further details contact: Pauline Durrant, Tel: 020 7486 5888, Email: Pauline.Durrant@bdo.co.uk, Reference: 00426934.
Malcolm Cohen, Joint Liquidator
Dated: 30 May 2023

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TM-PA-0523-FP

Weather

Today Any morning cloud will break revealing spells of sunshine. Max 25C (77F), min 3C (37F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	10	C	**	2.7
Aberporth	15	S	0.0	1.3
Anglesey	16	S	0.0	**
Aviemore	11	D	0.0	0.7
Barnstaple	18	S	0.0	**
Bedford	13	C	0.0	**
Belfast	17	S	0.0	3.7
Birmingham	12	C	0.0	**
Bournemouth	16	S	0.0	6.3
Bridlington	13	C	0.0	**
Bristol	13	C	0.0	2.3
Camborne	17	S	0.0	1.5
Cardiff	14	PC	0.0	6.1
Edinburgh	13	C	0.0	1.6
Eskdalemuir	13	C	0.0	1.0
Glasgow	15	C	0.0	1.4
Hereford	12	C	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	15	PC	0.0	7.4
Ipswich	14	C	0.0	0.1
Isle of Man	14	S	0.0	2.2
Isle of Wight	16	S	0.0	**
Jersey	14	C	0.0	1.1
Keswick	15	S	0.0	**
Kinloss	11	C	0.4	1.3
Leeds	11	D	0.0	**
Lerwick	10	B	0.2	0.0
Leuchars	11	C	0.0	0.2
Lincoln	13	C	0.0	0.0
Liverpool	18	S	0.0	**
London	14	C	0.0	5.1
Lyneham	13	C	0.0	3.5
Manchester	16	S	0.0	2.8
Margate	12	C	0.0	3.5
Milford Haven	18	S	0.0	**
Newcastle	11	C	0.0	**
Nottingham	13	C	0.0	0.0
Orkney	10	C	0.0	1.0
Oxford	13	C	0.0	**
Plymouth	19	S	0.0	**
Portland	15	PC	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	13	C	0.0	**
Shoreham	14	C	0.0	6.9
Shrewsbury	14	PC	0.0	0.8
Snowdonia	15	S	0.0	**
Southend	14	C	0.0	3.1
South Uist	12	C	0.0	**
Stornoway	11	C	0.0	2.2
Tiree	14	S	0.0	**
Whitehaven	14	C	0.0	2.5
Wick	10	C	0.0	**
Yeovilton	16	PC	0.0	4.3

The world

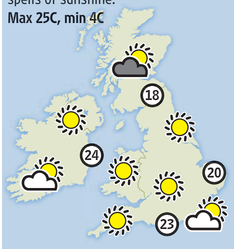
All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	23	PC	Madeira	23	PC
Amsterdam	14	B	Madrid	22	PC
Athens	25	PC	Malaga	23	PC
Auckland	19	PC	Mallorca	21	SH
Bahrain	36	S	Malta	24	PC
Bangkok	34	PC	Melbourne	13	B
Barbados	27	R	Mexico City	26	PC
Barcelona	22	PC	Miami	30	PC
Beijing	30	S	Milan	24	PC
Beirut	29	S	Mombasa	27	B
Belgrade	23	PC	Montreal	28	PC
Berlin	20	S	Moscow	20	S
Bermuda	26	B	Mumbai	**	**
Bordeaux	24	PC	Munich	24	S
Brussels	19	S	Nairobi	**	**
Bucharest	21	R	Naples	26	PC
Budapest	26	S	New Orleans	32	S
Buenos Aires	18	S	New York	20	PC
Cairo	39	B	Nice	24	PC
Calcutta	37	S	Nicosia	25	PC
Canberra	18	S	Oslo	13	S
Cape Town	18	B	Paris	24	S
Chicago	29	T	Perth	17	PC
Copenhagen	19	S	Prague	23	S
Corfu	27	PC	Reykjavik	12	C
Delhi	27	S	Riga	18	PC
Dubai	37	S	Rio de Janeiro	21	B
Dublin	14	B	Riyadh	38	S
Faro	22	PC	Rome	25	S
Florence	28	PC	San Francisco	18	PC
Frankfurt	27	S	Santiago	19	S
Geneva	25	PC	São Paulo	16	R
Gibraltar	21	B	Seoul	22	S
Helsinki	11	SH	Seychelles	30	PC
Hong Kong	27	PC	Singapore	26	R
Honolulu	29	B	St Petersburg	13	B
Istanbul	25	PC	Stockholm	11	S
Jerusalem	31	S	Sydney	20	S
Johannesburg	13	S	Tel Aviv	31	S
Kuala Lumpur	30	PC	Tenerife	23	B
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	24	B
Lanzarote	25	B	Vancouver	16	B
Las Palmas	24	B	Venice	24	S
Lima	21	DU	Vienna	24	PC
Lisbon	26	PC	Warsaw	24	S
Los Angeles	18	B	Washington	25	S
Luxor	39	S	Zurich	23	S

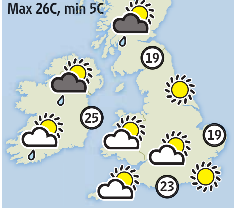
Five days ahead

Warmest and sunniest in the west, partly cloudy at times in the east with the chance of some drizzle

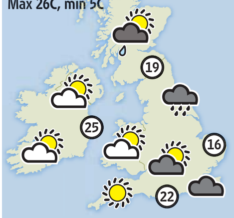
Tomorrow
Partly cloudy but dry in northern Scotland. Elsewhere, dry with lengthy spells of sunshine.
Max 25C, min 4C



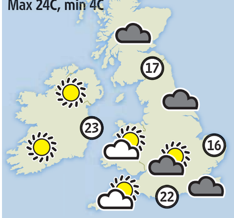
Sunday
A dry day with sunny spells across England and Wales. Sunny periods in Ireland and Scotland with the risk of an isolated light shower in western Ireland.
Max 26C, min 5C



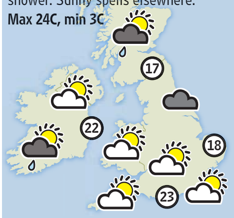
Monday
Mostly cloudy in northeastern Scotland and eastern England with the risk of a few spots of drizzle. Dry elsewhere with spells of sunshine.
Max 26C, min 5C



Tuesday
Cloudy across eastern England and Scotland with a few spots of light rain and drizzle. Mostly dry elsewhere with spells of sunshine.
Max 24C, min 4C



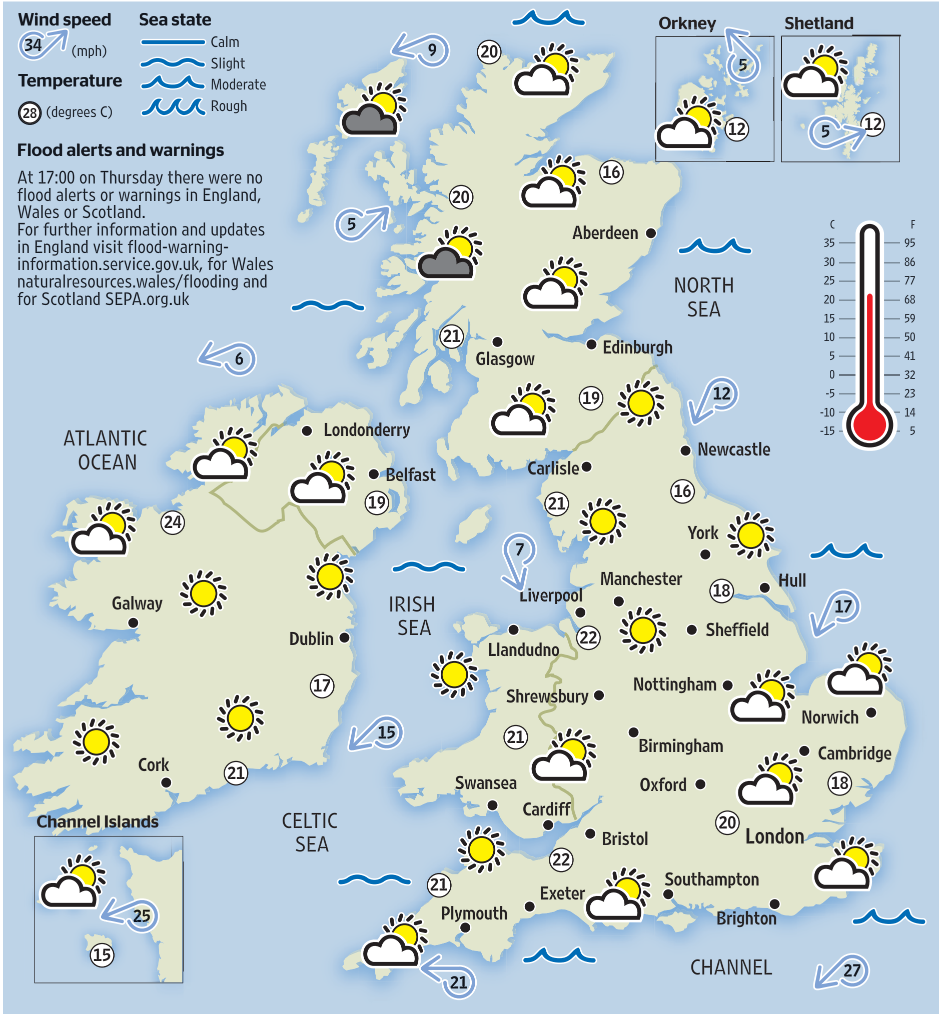
Wednesday
Partly cloudy in northeastern areas with the chance of some drizzle. Sunny periods in southwest England and southern Ireland with the risk of a shower. Sunny spells elsewhere.
Max 24C, min 3C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Thursday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

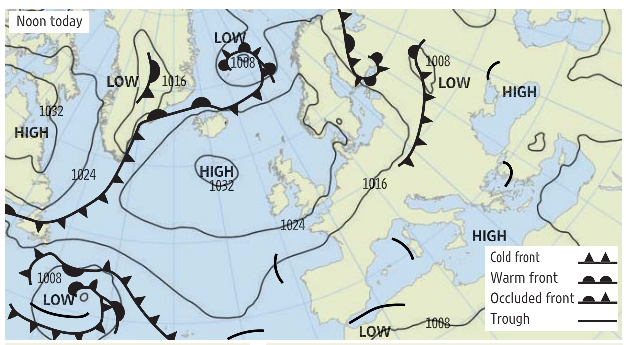


General situation: Patchy cloud in southern and eastern England and western Scotland will break revealing sunny spells. Dry and sunny elsewhere.
SW Eng, Wales, NW Eng, Cen N Eng, Lake District, NE Eng, IoM: A dry and sunny day. Light to moderate northeasterly winds. Maximum 24C (75F), minimum 4C (39F).
London, SE Eng, Cen S Eng, E Anglia, E Eng, Channel Is, Mids: A largely cloudy start, but through the day the cloud will thin and break revealing lengthy spells of sunshine. Light to moderate northeasterly winds. Maximum 22C (72F), minimum 4C (39F).
Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: A dry day with sunny spells across Northern Ireland. Dry and sunny elsewhere. Light to moderate east or northeasterly winds. Maximum 25C (77F), minimum 4C (39F).
Cen Highland, Glasgow, NW Scotland, Argyll: A mostly cloudy start to the day but through the morning the cloud will break to reveal some sunny periods. Over the high ground a few spots of drizzle are possible. Light and variable winds. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 5C (41F).
SW Scotland, Edinburgh and Dundee, Borders, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, N Isles: A dry and sunny day. Through the afternoon the sunshine may turn hazy across southern areas. Light east or northeasterly winds. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 3C (37F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	--:--	--	12:57	3.9
Avonmouth	06:31	11.9	18:58	12.2
Belfast	10:31	3.3	22:55	3.2
Cardiff	06:14	11.2	18:44	11.4
Devonport	05:03	4.9	17:31	5.0
Dover	10:28	6.1	22:43	6.3
Dublin	10:59	3.8	23:13	3.8
Falmouth	04:26	4.7	16:52	4.7
Greenock	11:41	3.2	--:--	--
Harwich	11:15	3.7	23:31	3.7
Holyhead	09:46	5.1	22:11	5.2
Hull	05:43	6.8	17:55	6.8
Leith	01:55	5.0	14:16	5.1
Liverpool	10:30	8.5	22:55	8.7
London Bridge	--:--	--	13:22	6.5
Lowestoft	09:10	2.3	21:03	2.3
Milford Haven	05:31	6.3	17:55	6.4
Morecambe	10:42	8.5	23:06	8.7
Newhaven	10:31	6.0	22:51	6.3
Newquay	04:25	6.2	16:48	6.4
Oban	05:10	3.6	17:37	3.6
Penzance	03:56	5.0	16:20	5.1
Portsmouth	10:55	4.3	23:14	4.5
Shoreham	10:37	5.6	22:57	5.9
Southampton	09:58	4.1	22:20	4.3
Swansea	05:36	8.6	18:04	8.7
Tees	02:57	5.0	15:11	5.1
Weymouth	06:02	1.8	18:45	1.9



Synoptic situation

An area of high pressure centred to the northwest of the British Isles bringing largely dry and settled conditions. It will be a largely sunny day across northern and western Britain. Southeastern Britain will have some patchy cloud during the morning although this will thin and break revealing spells during the afternoon. Warmest in western Britain.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Porthmadog, Gwynedd, 24.1C
Coldest: Braemar, 1.8C
Wettest: Scarborough, 0.6mm
Sunniest: Herstmonceux, East Sussex, 7.4hrs*

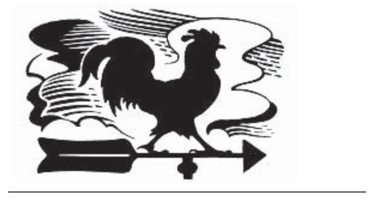
Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 04.47
Sun sets: 21.08
Moon rises: 19.33
Moon sets: 03.55 Sat
Full moon: June 4

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	22:21-03:49
Belfast	22:19-04:23
Birmingham	21:50-04:19
Cardiff	21:50-04:29
Exeter	21:48-04:35
Glasgow	22:21-04:08
Liverpool	22:00-04:18
London	21:38-04:17
Manchester	21:57-04:15
Newcastle	22:04-04:03
Norwich	21:38-04:05
Penzance	21:53-04:46
Sheffield	21:54-04:12

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



May turned out dry, rainfall was below average as high pressure took control and warm winds swept much of the UK, leaving the ground parched and raising the risk of wildfires and water shortages.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency recently issued early warnings for water scarcity in southern and central Scotland, and much of the north including the Western Isles. This followed a drier than normal winter and spring, well below average for much of Scotland. And there is little prospect for rain this month, which does not bode well for the rest of the summer, possibly raising a repeat of the water shortages in Scotland last summer.

There have also been warning signs of water shortages in parts of England. Wildfire recently tore through the Fen Bog nature reserve on the North York Moors. And Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly area have been unusually dry for eight months since drought was declared last August with a hosepipe ban still in place for Cornwall and parts of north Devon that could last until the end of the year.

Although wet weather throughout winter helped to boost reservoir levels, these are still below the levels this time last year, and so South West Water has urged its customers to cut down of water use.

These warnings may seem premature but wildfires, drought and water shortages have become all too familiar in summer in the UK. The signs are that the spell of dry conditions could last until mid-June at least and carry on to the end of the month in northern areas in particular.

We could simply hope for the best, that sufficient rains will return in the nick of time to avert water shortages for consumers, farmers, hydroelectric plants and all the other big water users. But as Sir John Armitt, of the National Infrastructure Commission, pointed out in The Times last year, more effort is needed to fix leaks, new projects need to be built and people need to cut down on water use.

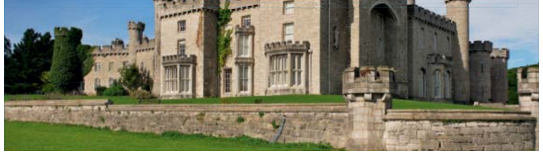
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Sport

Verstappen: We could win every race this season

Formula One
Alasdair Reid Barcelona

With six wins from six races, Red Bull's dominance in Formula One has been established beyond all doubt. Max Verstappen, who claimed four of those victories, is in no mind to apologise for his team's superiority.

Arriving at the Circuit de Catalunya, a few miles north of Barcelona, after his masterclass performance in Monaco, Verstappen was asked if Red Bull could carry on in the same vein and fulfil George Russell's gloomy (from a Mercedes point of view at least) prediction that the team could win every race this season.

"At the moment it looks like we can," was his breezy response, before adding a more cautious note. "That's very unlikely to happen. There are always things that go wrong or you have a retirement or whatever. But purely on pace it looks like that, but we will always get tracks where it doesn't work out exactly or we have bad luck in qualifying or we make mistakes."

Fans of other teams may bemoan Red Bull's almost processional progress towards the drivers' and constructors' championship as neutrals crave a more competitive series but Verstappen pointed out that having one dominant outfit was the norm rather than an exception and that others eventually catch up.

Spanish Grand Prix
Qualifying: Tomorrow, 3pm
Race: Sunday, 2pm
Live on Sky Sports F1

"We have always seen this in F1 so it is nothing new," he said. "The longer you leave the regulations the same, the closer people will get. Maybe this is something we need to look at.

"You have the odd year, or two years, when you maybe have two teams fighting, maybe potentially a third team. But overall from the 1980s through the 1990s and from the early 2000s to 2020 it has been the pure dominance of a certain team." For much of the past decade that certain team was Mercedes, with whom Lewis Hamilton won six of his record-equalling seven world championships. The only driver who managed to interrupt his run was Nico Rosberg, but he was also in a Mercedes when he triumphed in 2016.

There is a theory that a driver's motivation must start to wane when winning becomes too easy. Hamilton does not subscribe to it. Interrupting his preparations for Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix, Hamilton reflected on the era when Mercedes were in the ascendancy while others struggled to get close to them. It turns out he rather enjoyed that time.

"It gets easier once you get used to it," said Hamilton, smiling. "I think that when you get on top of the car, when you know that the car works in this window, it is much easier to get the set-up.

"When you have, for example, the car like I [currently] have, you are trying everything, every different set-up and combination to try and eke out a little more performance. But when you have performance in hand you are not necessarily always going to make risky choices throughout practice in order to get that extra half-tenth [of a second].



Hamilton was happy to reflect on the era of Mercedes domination

"You don't have to push the bodywork as tight as possible or put the engine on the limit of temperature because you have a little bit of breathing space. You don't have to push the tyres so hard, which ultimately means longer stints [between pit stops]. There's all these different things.

"You still have a job to do. You still have to go out there and deliver, be focused, not make mistakes and make the right decisions.

"But I never got tired of it. I never got comfortable. Damn, it's a great feeling when you know you have a car you can compete with on the weekend."

Whether Hamilton and Mercedes now have that will become clear over the next few days. Their recent upgrade package performed well in Monaco, but the Spanish Grand Prix will provide a much better indication of its worth. Hamilton dismissed the notion that Mercedes could close the gap on Red Bull in one fell swoop, but he expressed cautious optimism that they should be able to edge a little nearer to Formula One's pace-setters.

Carré latest casualty as Wales exodus goes on

Rugby union Wales have lost a fourth member of their preliminary Rugby World Cup squad after prop Rhys Carré was released because he "failed to meet individual performance targets" (Elgan Alderman writes).

Warren Gatland, the head coach, named a 54-man training squad at the start of the month and has seen it drop to 50.

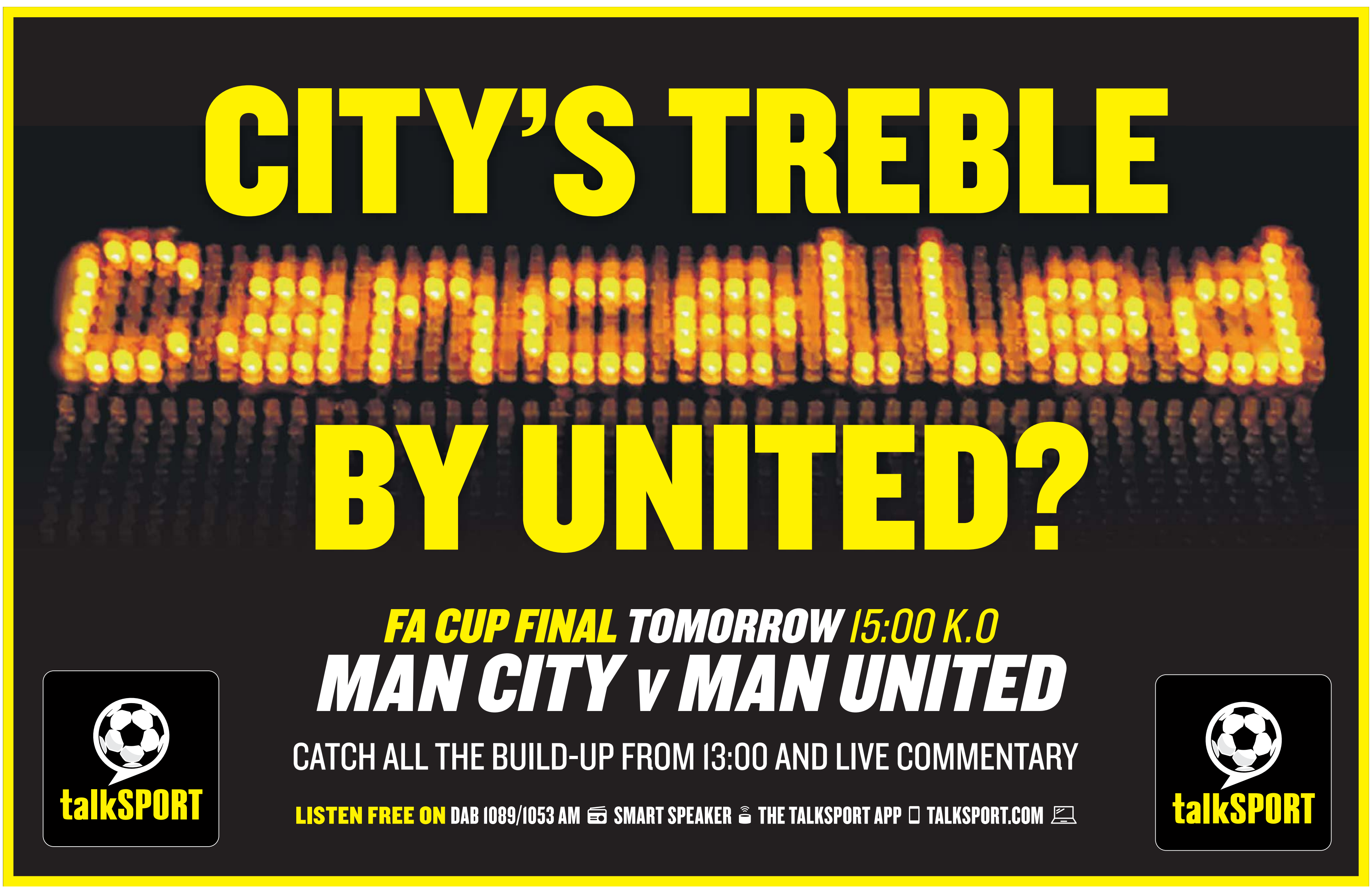
A fortnight ago Alun Wyn Jones and Justin Tipuric retired from international rugby and Rhys Webb followed suit on Wednesday.

The Welsh Rugby Union said there were no plans to call up replacements for the quartet.

McIlroy slips down field after horror final hole

Golf Rory McIlroy had a a triple-bogey seven on the last hole to spoil a solid first round at the Memorial Tournament in Ohio. McIlroy, 34, was one shot off the lead approaching the 18th but his disastrous finish meant he had to settle for a level-par 72.

Matt Wallace's four-under 68 held the lead for a long time before a birdie at the last for Davis Riley, of the United States, took him one shot clear at the top. England's Danny Willett and Ireland's Shane Lowry are well placed in a share of third place on three under.





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Sport Racing

Carlisle
Rob Wright

1.10 Bulls Aye · **1.40** Kylian · **2.15** May Blossom · **2.50** B Associates · **3.25** Beautron · **4.05** Two Rivers · **4.45** La Feile · **5.16** Two Auld Pals

Going: good, good to firm in places
Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best — Racing TV

1.10 Handicap (£3,402: 1m 1f) (7)
1 (5) 02302 **BULLS AYE** 9 (V) I Jardine 5-9-9 **M Winn**
2 (4) -6450 **DARK COMPANY** 14 Charlie Johnston 5-9-6 **A Young (7)**
3 (3) -2646 **DANDY'S ANGEL** 17 J Wainwright 6-9-4 **B Wilkie (5)**
4 (1) 02050 **HASEEF** 18 (T) A Nicol 5-9-3 **A Brookes**
5 (6) 00533 **WILLING TO PLEASE** 14 (C) P Kirby 6-9-2 **Madi Patzelt**
6 (2) 10-66 **JAMINOZ** 14 J Goldie 4-9-1 **Amie Waugh**
7 (7) 43606 **MR COCO BEAN** 24 Helen Cuthbert 9-8-11 **Erika Parkinson**
2-1 Bulls Aye, 3-1 Willing To Please, 9-2 Dandy's Angel, 13-2 Haseef, 10-1 Mr Coco Bean, Dark Company, 12-1 Jaminoz.

1.40 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £6,750: 5f) (5)
1 (3) 42 **ALFA WHITEBURD** 41 Craig Lidster 9-7 **P Hanagan**
2 (5) **DESERT RAIDER** Charlie Johnston 9-7 **F Norton**
3 (4) **EMPEROR'S SON** R Fahey 9-7 **Oisin Orr**
4 (1) 3 **KYLIAN** 16 (BF) K R Burke 9-7 **S James**
5 (2) **LADY NUNTHORPE** B Smart 9-2 **P Mulrennan**
11-8 Kylian, 3-1 Emperor's Son, 4-1 Desert Raider, 13-2 Lady Nunthorpe, 8-1 Alfa Whiteburd.

2.15 Handicap (£6,542: 5f) (8)
1 (4) 1-014 **HAVAGOMECCA** 18 (P,BF,D) M Dods 5-10-2 **O Stammers**
2 (5) 5-650 **MAY BLOSSOM** 13 (V,D) D O'Meara 4-9-11 **D Tudhope**
3 (6) 62232 **OPEN MARKET** 13 (D) K R Burke 3-9-6 **S James**
4 (3) -3322 **PRINCESS KARINE** 11 (BF,D) B Smart 4-9-6 **P Mulrennan**
5 (7) 2-056 **LADY LADE** 18 (CD) K Dalgleish 4-9-5 **Oisin Orr**
6 (1) 160-0 **HOOF IT HOOF IT** 19 T Easterby 3-9-5 **S B Kirrane (3)**
7 (8) -6342 **IRIS DANCER** 14 (B) T Davidson 5-9-1 **M Winn (5)**
8 (2) 22130 **ENRAGED** 56 (P,BF,CD) J Camacho 4-8-13 **P Hanagan**
9-4 Princess Karine, 9-2 Open Market, 5-1 Havagomecca, Iris Dancer, 11-2 Enraged, 10-1 Lady Lade, 16-1 May Blossom, 20-1 Hoof It Hoof It.

2.50 Handicap (Div I: 3-Y-O: £3,402: 6f) (9)
1 (2) 05-0 **HEARTLANDER** 18 Ewan Whillans 9-11 **B McHugh**
2 (6) 60-45 **STORMY PEARL** 12 (P,D) R Menzies 9-9 **P Mulrennan**
3 (1) 500-5 **CEILIDH** 10 (B) H Morrison 9-8 **Oisin Orr**
4 (4) 5-421 **B ASSOCIATES** 18 J Goldie 9-7 **M Winn (5)**
5 (9) 43004 **CAPOFAN** 28 (P) M Dods 9-6 **O Stammers**
6 (7) 00530 **CONGRESS** 18 R Fell 9-5 **S James**
7 (5) 00-04 **HEART OF SOFIA** 17 N Tinkler 9-3 **R Scott**
8 (8) 00-62 **ZEBADAAY** 21 (V) D O'Meara 9-0 **D Tudhope**
9 (3) 06-04 **AMAZING ARTHUR** 8 T Easterby 9-0 **S B Kirrane (3)**
5-2 B Associates, 4-1 Zebadaay, 5-1 Ceilidh, 7-1 Stormy Pearl, 8-1 Capofan, 10-1 Heart Of Sofia, 12-1 Congress, Amazing Arthur, 20-1 Heartlander.

3.25 Handicap (Div II: 3-Y-O: £3,402: 6f) (9)
1 (6) 040- **BEAUTRON** 209 (T) T Easterby 9-11 **S B Kirrane (3)**
2 (3) 06600 **PUB CLUB** 16 (B) H Palmer 9-9 **W Carver (3)**
3 (1) 4-000 **KASINO** 8 (H,D) B Smart 9-8 **H Shaw**
4 (7) 40615 **CAPTAIN DANDY** 56 (BF,D) R Fahey 9-6 **Oisin Orr**
5 (9) 45251 **LITTLE RED DANCER** 8 (P,D) A Brown 9-6(6ex) **Paula Muir (3)**
6 (5) 00003 **BEDAZZLING** 8 (D) R Fell 9-4 **S James**
7 (8) 66550 **AZAIM** 8 (P) M Dods 9-1 **O Stammers**
8 (4) 04630 **ARTEMIS FLYER** 8 (P) K Scott 9-0 **B McHugh**
9 (2) 00-00 **HELIANTHUS** 130 P Kirby 9-0 **P Mathers**
6-4 Little Red Dancer, 3-1 Captain Dandy, 11-2 Bedazzling, 15-2 Beautron, 12-1 Kasino, 14-1 Pub Club, 16-1 Azaim, 20-1 Artemis Flyer, 66-1 Helianthus.

4.05 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,187: 1m) (9)
1 (3) 3201 **UNITED FORCE** 34 (B) A Watson 9-10 **D Tudhope**
2 (2) 06-20 **SUNNY ORANGE** 16 T Easterby 9-9 **S B Kirrane (3)**
3 (7) 44-36 **LUDO'S LANDING** 21 (B,C) Charlie Johnston 9-9 **F Norton**
4 (8) 520-3 **KRISTAL KLEAR** 34 H Palmer 9-8 **W Carver (3)**
5 (4) 304-0 **REGINALD CHARLES** 32 (H,V) B Smart 9-7 **H Shaw**
6 (1) 2-020 **KELPIE GREY** 19 J Goldie 9-5 **P Mulrennan**
7 (5) -4350 **NO BARRIER** 10 K Ryan 9-3 **R Scott**
8 (9) 210-3 **SLIPPIN JIMMY** 25 (BF) R Fahey 9-2 **Oisin Orr**
9 (6) 004- **TWO RIVERS** 248 I Jardine 8-9 **S James**
7-2 United Force, 4-1 Kristal Klear, 9-2 Slippin Jimmy, 6-1 Sunny Orange, 13-2 Ludo's Landing, 10-1 Kelpie Grey, 12-1 others.

4.45 Handicap (£3,402: 7f) (9)
1 (9) 0600- **CASSY O** 244 (B,D) T Easterby 6-9-11 **S B Kirrane (3)**
2 (3) -5100 **SAISONS D'OR** 25 (D) J O'Keeffe 8-9-11 **J Garritty**
3 (4) 41615 **GUNNERSIDE** 21 (BF,C,D) G Tuer 6-9-10 **O Stammers**
4 (6) 006 **BLAME THE FARRIER** 33 D Thompson 6-9-9 **H Shaw**
5 (7) -0560 **YOSHIMI** 78 (P,D) M Herrington 6-9-7 **P Mulrennan**
6 (5) 40-42 **LA FEILE** 8 (D) R Fahey 4-9-6 **Oisin Orr**
7 (1) 4-104 **NORTHBOUND** 17 (D) J Camacho 5-9-1 **P Hanagan**
8 (8) 40-20 **BANNER ROAD** 14 J Goldie 4-8-8 **S James**
9 (2) 50-54 **EARN YOUR STRIPES** 14 (P) R M Smith 5-8-5 **P Mathers**
5-2 La Feile, 7-2 Gunnerside, 6-1 Northbound, Banner Road, 10-1 Saisons D'Or, Earn Your Stripes, Cassy O, 12-1 Yoshimi, 25-1 Blame The Farrier.

5.16 Handicap (£3,402: 2m 1f) (8)
1 (2) -2420 **YORKINDNESS** 13 Charlie Johnston 4-9-10 **F Norton**
2 (3) 5-500 **RIFFA FORT** 51 C Ellam 4-9-8 **P Hanagan**
3 (1) 3-652 **TWO AULD PALS** 10 J Goldie 5-9-6 **S James**
4 (4) 33003 **TRAILBLAZER** 18 (P) A Nicol 4-9-5 **D Tudhope**
5 (8) 44-00 **SCOTTISH WIND** 28 (P) L Russell 5-9-4 **Oisin Orr**
6 (6) 064-5 **HELLENISTA** 27 (P) T Easterby 5-9-3 **S B Kirrane (3)**
7 (5) -5200 **ZEPHLYN** 18 Ewan Whillans 4-8-8 **B McHugh**
8 (7) 06-23 **TARBAT NESS** 39 (P) J Berry 4-8-7 **R Scott**
11-4 Tarbat Ness, 3-1 Two Auld Pals, Trailblazer, 5-1 Yorkindness, 10-1 Hellenista, 16-1 Zephlyn, 20-1 Scottish Wind, 25-1 Riffa Fort.

Catterick
Rob Wright

5.55 Golden Gal · **6.25** White Christmas · **6.55** Turner Girl · **7.25** Glory Fighter · **7.55** Eagle Eyed Freddie · **8.25** Elusive Angel · **9.00** Prospect

Going: good to firm
Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best — Racing TV

5.55 Handicap (£4,004: 5f) (6)
1 (2) 25-50 **SHERDIL** 17 (D) P Midgley 4-10-2 **Laura Coughlan**
2 (1) -4024 **STREET LIFE** 8 (P,D) P Morris 6-9-13 **C J Todd**
3 (6) 0-405 **REDZONE** 25 (P) B Smart 6-9-12 **Z Wheatley**
4 (5) 0-432 **GOLDEN GAL** 8 (P,CD) O Pears 4-9-4 **H Russell**
5 (3) 40004 **GOLDEN PROSPERITY** 2 (P) T Coyle 4-8-9 **K Schofield**
6 (4) -3000 **MRS BAGERRAN** 59 T Waggott 5-8-9 **W Pyle (3)**
7-4 Golden Gal, 5-2 Street Life, 9-2 Redzone, 8-1 Sherdil, 10-1 Mrs Bagerran, Golden Prosperity.

6.25 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,320: 5f) (9)
1 (4) **INVINCIBLE ROYALE** D Loughnane 9-7 **Laura Pearson (3)**
2 (5) **NOO POINT** A Watson 9-7 **JP Sullivan**
3 (6) 0 **SHERIFF'S CALL** 17 M & D Easterby 9-7 **B Garritty**
4 (7) 30 **WHITE CHRISTMAS** 15 M Bell 9-7 **D Allan**
5 (3) **FLACCIANELLO** R Fahey 9-2 **C Hardie**
6 (8) **FULL GAMBIT** Miss A Murphy 9-2 **F Larson (3)**
7 (9) **LADY PINK ROSE** K R Burke 9-2 **S Gray**
8 (1) 0 **LUNA ROUGE** 13 S Spencer 9-2 **K Schofield (5)**
9 (2) **MORAL STANDARDS** G Tuer 9-2 **H Russell (3)**
2-1 Lady Pink Rose, 7-2 Flaccianello, 4-1 Noo Point, 11-2 White Christmas, 12-1 Full Gambit, Invincible Royale, Moral Standards, 25-1 others.

6.55 Handicap (£4,527: 1m 6f) (5)
1 (3) 23-21 **SCOTTISH DANCER** 6 (P) K Dalgleish 4-10-0(5ex) **B Garritty**
2 (1) 42-55 **HEATHERDOWN HERO** 31 (H,D) R Menzies 4-9-5 **C Hardie**
3 (4) 0-333 **TURNER GIRL** 21 (P,CD) E Dunlop 4-9-4 **Joanna Mason**
4 (5) 2-505 **EYE KNEE** 25 (T,C) S Spencer 5-8-13 **Dale Swift**
5 (2) -0450 **LORD TORRANAGA** 31 (CD) P Kirby 8-8-12 **G Lee**
6-5 Scottish Dancer, 2-1 Turner Girl, 7-1 Heatherdown Hero, 8-1 Lord Torranaga, 12-1 Eye Knee.

7.25 Handicap (£5,574: 5f) (8)
1 (6) 120-0 **RUNNINWILD** 27 (D) Mrs A Duffield 5-9-10 **D Allan**
2 (7) 500-0 **LE BEAU GARCON** 55 (D) M & D Easterby 4-9-7 **Joanna Mason**
3 (4) -0042 **MR BEAUFORT** 9 (T,D) D O'Meara 4-9-2 **B Robinson**
4 (1) 115-0 **EEH BAH GUM** 18 (CD) Mrs A Duffield 8-9-2 **Laura Coughlan (5)**
5 (2) 640-0 **GOOD LUCK FOX** 61 (CD) P Midgley 7-9-2 **C Hardie**
6 (3) 06-33 **GLORY FIGHTER** 21 (P,D) P Midgley 7-9-1 **G Lee**
7 (5) 1066- **TRIPLE JAYE** 175 (H,P,D) T Easterby 5-8-12 **D Fentiman**
8 (8) 151-0 **BLAZING HOT** 130 (B,BF,D) D C Griffiths 6-8-12 **L Edmunds**
2-1 Mr Beaufort, 11-4 Glory Fighter, 6-1 Blazing Hot, Runninwild, 10-1 Triple Jaye, Le Beau Garcon, 16-1 Good Luck Fox, 25-1 Eeh Bah Gum.

7.55 Claiming Stakes (£3,114: 7f) (4)
1 (2) 36631 **WRITTEN BROADCAST** 10 (B,D) O Pears 6-9-9 **H Russell (3)**
2 (3) 10010 **EAGLE EYED FREDDIE** 57 (P,T) M Appleby 5-9-5 **F Larson (3)**
3 (4) 34144 **HOW BIZARRE** 14 (D) Liam Bailey 8-8-12 **D Allan**
4 (1) -0060 **RUM RUNNER** 4 (D) G Harker 8-8-7 **S Gray**
6-4 Eagle Eyed Freddie, 7-4 Written Broadcast, 3-1 How Bizarre, 14-1 Rum Runner.

8.25 Maiden Stakes (£4,050: 6f) (10)
1 (6) 6 **JAILHOUSE ROCK** 18 P Niven 3-9-7 **W Pyle (7)**
2 (10) **JOHNNY JAMES** M Appleby 3-9-7 **F Larson (3)**
3 (1) 6 **LITTLE MAN** 22 K Frost 3-9-7 **L Edmunds**
4 (7) 3-630 **NORTHCLIFF** 14 T Easterby 3-9-7 **D Allan**
5 (3) 04 **PETE THE BRIEF** 18 T Easterby 3-9-7 **JP Sullivan**
6 (9) 22-23 **TALHA** 21 (BF) R Fahey 3-9-7 **C Hardie**
7 (2) **CANARIA QUEEN** T Easterby 3-9-2 **D Fentiman**
8 (5) 2 **ELUSIVE ANGEL** 30 (BF) Harry Eustace 3-9-2 **H Turner**
9 (8) 00 **LADYLINGMOOR** 18 J J Quinn 3-9-2 **B Garritty**
10 (4) 0 **WOWSHESOMTHINGELSE** 11 Craig Lidster 3-9-2 **Joanna Mason**
6-5 Elusive Angel, 3-1 Talha, Northcliff, 14-1 Pete The Brief, 20-1 Canaria Queen, 25-1 Little Man, 33-1 Johnny James, Ladylingmoor.

9.00 Handicap (£4,527: 6f) (7)
1 (5) 6-040 **KING OF TONGA** 17 (D) D Carroll 7-9-9 **Z Wheatley (5)**
2 (1) 0-505 **SOUL SEEKER** 2 (T) D O'Meara 6-9-8 **B Robinson**
3 (4) 5-502 **PROSPECT** 13 (D) P Midgley 5-9-4 **G Lee**
4 (7) 10624 **STARSONG** 7 (B,H,D) M Appleby 4-9-4 **T Ladd**
5 (2) 030-0 **IMPELLER** 41 (P,T,D) T Easterby 5-9-3 **D Fentiman**
6 (3) 2-046 **STALINGRAD** 10 G Tuer 6-9-0 **S Gray**
7 (6) -0114 **FORESEEABLE FUTURE** 3 (V,BF,D) R Carr 8-8-11 **JP Sullivan**
2-1 Prospect, 7-2 Foreseeable Future, 4-1 Starsong, 8-1 Stalingrad, Soul Seeker, 10-1 King Of Tonga, 12-1 Impeller.

Chepstow
Rob Wright

1.20 Man Made Of Smoke · **1.50** Fakhra · **2.25** Rhubarb · **3.00** Connie's Rose · **3.35** Dundory · **4.15** Vaguely Royal · **4.50** Dog Fox

Going: good to firm, firm in places
Draw: no advantage — Sky Sports Racing

1.20 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,245: 1m) (7)
1 (3) 00-6 **PASSING TIME** 133 A Balding 9-10 **J Bryan**
2 (4) 04-0 **BALA HATUN** 93 R Brisland 9-9 **W Carson**
3 (6) 02164 **MAN MADE OF SMOKE** 7 (B) P Evans 9-8 **R Dawson**
4 (5) 4-232 **TICKET TO ALASKA** 13 C Cox 9-7 **J Fahy**
5 (1) 3-050 **KOHANA BREEZE** 16 (B) A Watson 9-7 **K Shoemark**
6 (7) 52223 **RACING DEMON** 16 (H) E De Giles 9-0 **T Whelan**
7 (2) 0-516 **PROFITAR RULES** 31 (T,V) T Dascombe 8-13 **L Keniry**
2-1 Ticket To Alaska, 5-2 Racing Demon, 5-1 Passing Time, 7-1 Kohana Breeze, 8-1 Profitar Rules, 14-1 Man Made Of Smoke, 16-1 Bala Hatun.

1.50 Novice Stakes (£4,104: 7f) (12)
1 (11) 0-0 **BROADSHARE** 32 (H) K Burke 4-10-0 **L Keniry**
2 (12) **FISHERMANS COTTAGE** M Saunders 4-10-0 **W Carson**
3 (3) 00240 **BALLET BLANC** 64 R J Price 4-9-9 **C Hutchinson (3)**
4 (6) 12 **MONTE LINAS** 29 (D) S & E Crisford 3-9-9 **R Coakley**
5 (4) 20 **ART OF ROMANCE** 8 B Meehan 3-9-4 **K Shoemark**
6 (10) 2 **CHELSEA SQUARE** 14 R Beckett 3-9-4 **H Crouch**
7 (9) 0 **ISLAND LUCK** 10 R Hannon 3-9-4 **C Fallon**
8 (5) 0-3 **MONTY BAY** 30 C Cox 3-9-4 **J Fahy**
9 (7) **FAKHRA** R Hannon 3-8-13 **S M Levey**
10 (2) 0- **MIDSUMMER MUSIC** 205 R Teal 3-8-13 **G Rooke**
11 (8) 3-66 **SHAADEN** 14 M Tregoning 3-8-13 **J Crowley**
12 (1) 3-3 **STORYMAKER** 55 G Boughey 3-8-13 **C Planas (5)**
5-2 Monte Linas, 3-1 Chelsea Square, 11-2 Storymaker, 6-1 Monty Bay, 13-2 Fakhra, 10-1 Shaaden, Art Of Romance, 14-1 Island Luck.

2.25 Handicap (£3,245: 5f) (9)
1 (3) 62506 **MASHAAN** 18 S Lycett 5-9-11 **Elisha Whittington (5)**
2 (7) 41623 **THEREHEGOES** 29 (P,BF,D) R Brisland 4-9-9 **A Voikhansky (5)**
3 (8) 00602 **RHUBARB** 17 (CD) R J Price 6-9-9 **J Crowley**
4 (4) 60640 **Q TWENTY BOY** 31 (D) M Usher 8-9-8 **Millie Wonnacott (5)**
5 (9) 33-60 **CORONATION COTTAGE** 32 (CD) M Saunders 9-9-7 **W Carson**
6 (5) -3042 **JACQUELINA** 7 P McEntee 4-9-4 **Josephine Gordon**
7 (2) 6-045 **THE COLA KID** 7 (B,T,BF) G Harris 6-9-3 **R Dawson**
8 (1) 05005 **ELLIE PIPER** 3 (D) R Brisland 5-9-1 **K Shoemark**
9 (6) 46-04 **SILVER DIVA** 17 (B,T) J Gallagher 5-9-0 **T Whelan**
11-4 Rhubarb, 7-2 Jacquelina, 5-1 Therehegoes, The Cola Kid, 10-1 Silver Diva, Ellie Piper, Mashaan, 20-1 Q Twenty Boy, Coronation Cottage.

3.00 Handicap (£3,873: 5f) (8)
1 (3) 10-02 **SOME NIGHTMARE** 7 (P,C,D) J G O'Shea 6-9-11 **C Planas (5)**
2 (7) 610-0 **AMOR DE MI VIDA** 145 (P,D) A Watson 5-9-8 **K Shoemark**
3 (1) 00166 **LEVEL UP** 18 (V,D) P Evans 4-9-7 **Isabel Williams (3)**
4 (5) 12224 **THISMYDREAM** 45 (P,D) M Attwater 4-9-6 **A Keeley (5)**
5 (4) 6-010 **SECRET HANDSHEIKH** 25 (T,V,CD) J Gallagher 5-9-3 **T Whelan**
6 (8) 000-0 **SPEEDACUS** 18 (V,D) D O'Meara 4-9-3 **H Crouch**
7 (2) 0-441 **CONNIE'S ROSE** 17 (CD) G Harris 4-8-8 **R Dawson**
8 (6) /60-0 **DESERT** 17 M Saunders 4-8-8 **W Carson**
7-4 Some Nightmare, 4-1 Connie's Rose, 9-2 Thismydream, 7-1 Level Up, 8-1 Speedacus, 12-1 Secret Handsheikh, Amor De Mi Vida, 33-1 Desert.

3.35 Handicap (£3,873: 1m 4f) (6)
1 (6) 05512 **DUNDORY** 19 (P,C,D) J G O'Shea 7-9-9 **C Planas (5)**
2 (3) 00-03 **STILL STANDING** 20 (B,T) Alexandra Dunn 8-9-8 **T Fisher (5)**
3 (1) 35-03 **AGE OF SAIL** 20 (V) G L Moore 4-9-7 **T P Queally**
4 (4) 13-36 **FAR HORIZON** 32 M Scudamore 5-9-3 **A Keeley (5)**
5 (5) 14512 **MASTER GREY** 29 (P,C,D) B Millman 8-9-1 **R Coakley**
6 (2) 00-10 **ON THE RIGHT TRACK** 29 (CD) M Usher 6-8-13 **J Haynes**
13-8 Dundory, 5-2 Master Grey, 4-1 Age Of Sail, 13-2 Far Horizon, 12-1 On The Right Track, 16-1 Still Standing.

4.15 Maiden Stakes (£4,104: 1m 2f) (12)
1 (12) 4-0 **WHITCOMBE ROCKSTAR** 15 K Burke 4-10-2 **T Whelan**
2 (6) 3-3 **WILD HURRICANE** 53 (BF) S bin Suroor 5-10-2 **S Cherchi**
3 (10) 00 **MINI MILDRED** 25 N Mulholland 4-9-11 **L Keniry**
4 (11) **BERKSHIRE SUNDANCE** A Balding 3-9-3 **C Hutchinson (3)**
5 (2) 0- **CLAN CHIEFTAIN** 170 R Beckett 3-9-3 **H Crouch**
6 (1) 44-23 **ESCARPMENT** 27 (BF) M Meade 3-9-3 **S M Levey**
7 (8) 4- **MILLER SPIRIT** 236 G L Moore 3-9-3 **T P Queally**
8 (3) 0 **SEENDID** 14 W Haggas 3-9-3 **C Fallon**
9 (4) 50 **SNOW FORECAST** 41 J Portman 3-9-3 **R Coakley**
10 (7) 2 **ST JUST IN TIME** 25 Sir M Todd 3-9-3 **G Rooke**
11 (5) 3-2 **VAGUELY ROYAL** 14 J & T Gosden 3-9-3 **K Shoemark**
12 (9) 0- **ELOPED** 185 H Palmer 3-8-12 **R Dawson**
2-1 Vaguely Royal, 4-1 Escarpment, 5-1 Wild Hurricane, 13-2 St Just In Time, 10-1 Seendid, Berkshire Sundance, 14-1 Clan Chieftain, Eloped.

4.50 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,873: 1m 2f) (6)
1 (4) 5-40 **YELLOW STAR** 14 R Hannon 9-7 **S M Levey**
2 (6) 03-5 **STAR OF SUSSEX** 17 G L Moore 9-7 **T P Queally**
3 (3) 034- **IN THE TRENCHES** 217 K P De Foy 9-6 **J Crowley**
4 (1) 1035- **DIVINA GRACE** 242 R Guest 9-6 **R Dawson**
5 (5) -1136 **MIRABELLO BAY** 11 (D) J S Moore 9-5 **A Keeley (5)**
6 (2) 00-11 **DOG FOX** 7 (H,D) E Dunlop 9-4(6ex) **K Shoemark**
1-2 Dog Fox, 13-2 In The Trenches, 8-1 Divina Grace, 10-1 Yellow Star, 12-1 Star Of Sussex, 20-1 Mirabello Bay.

Stratford
Rob Wright

5.35 Magic Saint · **6.05** Solomon Grey · **6.35** Sine Nomine · **7.05** Vaucelet · **7.35** Caryto Des Brosses · **8.05** Raleagh Flora · **8.40** Old Gold

Going: good — Racing TV

5.35 Hunters' Chase (£3,080: 2m 1f) (9)
1 4/5P- **CAPITAINE** 153 (D) Georgina Nicholls 11-12-2 **Mr P Bryan**
2 210-4 **MAGIC SAINT** 28 (P,T,BF,D) P Nicholls 9-12-2 **Miss O Nicholls (5)**
3 212-1 **KAPROYALE** 10 (T) Francesca Poste 8-12-0 **Mr Z Baker**
4 /2P4- **AVOIR DE SOINS** 40 Stuart Payne 9-11-12 **Miss C Emsley**
5 03P-1 **DUE REWARD** 32 (D) Miss Kelly Morgan 10-11-12 **Miss G Andrews**
6 4P3-3 **FLAMINGER** 20 (P) Miss H Brookshaw 8-11-12 **Mr D Cherriman**
7 0/U3- **LE CORREZIEN** 62 (T,BF) D Brace 7-11-12 **Mr T Broughton**
8 U2-P4 **REWRITETHERULES** 12 (T) David O'Brien 9-11-12 **Mr D O'Brien (7)**
9 P44-P **SENDING LOVE** 26 (P,T) Miss Dawn Ball 10-11-12 **Mr N Rahman (7)**
4-5 Magic Saint, 3-1 Kaproyale, 8-1 Due Reward, Capitaine, 14-1 Le Correzien, 20-1 Rewritetherules, 66-1 Flaminger, Avoir De Soins, Sending Love.

6.05 Ladies Hunters' Chase (£6,160: 2m 7f) (9)
1 423-3 **ENVIOUS EDITOR** 28 (D) Miss H Brookshaw 9-11-13 **Miss A Jackson-Fennell (7)**
2 U31-2 **SHANTOU FLYER** 28 (B,T,D) S Loxton 13-11-13 **Miss Olive Nicholls (5)**
3 62-32 **SOLOMON GREY** 20 (T,BF) Miss V Collins 11-11-13 **Miss Immy Robinson (5)**
4 3P-41 **DANDY DAN** 13 (P) J Bourne 10-11-10 **Miss L Keen-hawkins (7)**
5 /111- **NORMOFTHENORTH** 34 (P) A Hill 9-11-10 **Miss Izzie Marshall (5)**
6 B1U-2 **REBEL DAWN RISING** 28 D Kemp 9-11-10 **Miss A Stevens (3)**
7 32R2- **SAY ABOUT IT** 48 (B,CD) R C Smith 8-11-10 **Mrs J Buck (3)**
8 P12-1 **MINELLA ENCORE** 13 (P,T) L Hopkins 11-11-7 **Ms T Hopkins**
9 361-6 **WHEESHT** 32 (D) Miss H Brookshaw 9-11-3 **Miss A Jones**
2-1 Shantou Flyer, 5-2 Rebel Dawn Rising, 7-1 Dandy Dan, Solomon Grey, 8-1 Envious Editor, 10-1 Minella Encore, 16-1 Normofthenorth, 25-1 others.

6.35 Hunters' Chase (£9,778: 3m 3f 119yd) (6)
1 PP1-3 **BRAVE STARLIGHT** 29 David Dennis 6-12-0 **Mr J Andrews**
2 P2-22 **DUNWORLEY** 10 R Pringuer 7-12-0 **Mr C Case**
3 PF2-F **MATTHEWS HILL** 14 (BF) P Flood (Ire) 7-12-0 **Mr J Hendrick**
4 223-4 **PRECIOUS BOUNTY** 28 T Ellis 9-12-0 **Miss E Callwood**
5 112-1 **QUINTIN'S MAN** 28 J Heard 6-12-0 **Mr D Andrews**
6 211-2 **SINE NOMINE** 28 (C) Fiona Needham 7-11-7 **Mr J Dawson**
11-10 Quintin's Man, 7-2 Sine Nomine, 6-1 Precious Bounty, 7-1 Brave Starlight, 10-1 Matthews Hill, 14-1 Dunworley.

7.05 Hunters' Chase (£10,756: 3m 3f 119yd) (11)
1 121-3 **CHELTENAM DE VAIGE** 28 Miss H Lewis 11-12-0 **Mr T Broughton**
2 111-1 **CLARA SORRENTO** 19 D Kemp 12-12-0 **Mr R Stearn**
3 1-131 **FR HUMPHREY** 12 (P) Miss N Hennessy (Ire) 15-12-0 **Miss N C Hennessy**
4 PP44- **GRAASTEN** 41 (T,V) S G Allen 11-12-0 **Mr H Crow**
5 221-1 **LAW OF GOLD** 28 (CD) D Kemp 10-12-0 **Mr D Peters**
6 2U-11 **NOT A ROLE MODEL** 23 Ms Ms J Nolan 11-12-0 **Miss Fern O'Brien**
7 11F1- **SECRET INVESTOR** 37 (P,T) P Nicholls 11-12-0 **Miss N Parker**
8 31-13 **STEELY ADDITION** 16 (P,BF) C T Dawson 11-12-0 **Mr J Dawson**
9 102-2 **VAUCELET** 14 (BF,CD) D M Christie (Ire) 8-12-0 **Mr B O'Neill**
10 140-2 **WAGNER** 26 (P,T) M Comley 8-12-0 **Mr J King**
11 121-3 **SINGAPORE SAGA** 28 J Heard 8-11-7 **Mr D Andrews**
11-10 Vaucelet, 100-30 Law Of Gold, 7-2 Secret Investor, 12-1 Clara Sorrento, 20-1 others.

7.35 Hunters' Chase (£4,711: 2m 5f) (7)
1 2/5P- **CAT TIGER** 77 (T) P Nicholls 9-12-9 **Miss Olive Nicholls (5)**
2 1UB-1 **I K BRUNEL** 26 A Hill 9-12-3 **Miss Izzie Marshall (5)**
3 151-2 **CARYTO DES BROSSES** 28 (C) D Kemp 11-11-10 **Mr D Peters (3)**
4 51PP- **ZAMPARELLI** 60 (B,T,CD) Miss V Collins 11-11-4 **Miss Immy Robinson (5)**
5 3331- **PEACOCKS SECRET** 56 (P,C) D Peters 11-11-2 **Miss G Andrews**
6 1F-12 **SIXTEEN LETTERS** 23 (T,BF) J Newman 11-10-11 **Mr J Newman**
7 21F-5 **SANTON** 28 (T,V) Miss Kelly Morgan 8-10-11 **Miss M Micklewright (7)**
2-1 Caryto Des Brosses, 5-2 Cat Tiger, 5-1 I K Brunel, 8-1 Peacocks Secret, Sixteen Letters, 12-1 Zamparelli, 16-1 Santon.

8.05 Hunters' Chase (£4,363: 2m 7f) (11)
1 /P1-1 **RALEAGH FLORA** 24 A Pennock 8-12-1 **Mr C Marshall (7)**
2 2313- **BETWEEN YOU AND ME** 41 (T) J Newman 6-11-12 **Mr J Newman**
3 2111- **CAPTAIN BIGGLES** 40 T Ellis 8-11-12 **Miss G Andrews**
4 321-2 **CUZZICOMBE** 19 (P) Edward William Walker 8-11-12 **Miss C Emsley (7)**
5 41-2 **FORTUNES HILL** 26 (BF) J R Barlow 6-11-12 **Mr P Barlow**
6 133-2 **MARTON ABBEY** 32 Mrs Annabel England 7-11-12 **Mr E England (7)**
7 /1-12 **MINELLA JAB** 19 Miss D Kenealy 6-11-12 **Mr W Biddick**
8 /113- **MOUNTAIN ASSAULT** 40 D Peters 9-11-12 **Mr D Peters (3)**
9 221-2 **ULTRA VIERS** 19 (H,T,BF) P Taylor 7-11-12 **Mr C Case (7)**
10 P11-3 **URBAN GRIT** 26 A Hill 6-11-12 **Miss Izzie Marshall (5)**
11 P11-P **RUNWITHTHETIDE** 28 Miss Kelly Morgan 6-11-5 **Miss A Stevens (3)**
13-8 Captain Biggles, 11-4 Raleagh Flora, 8-1 Minella Jab, 10-1 Urban Grit, 12-1 Ultra Viers, 14-1 Cuzzicombe, 16-1 Marton Abbey, 20-1 others.

8.40 NH Flat Race (£3,540: 2m) (7)
1 3P- **ACHTUNG BABY** 53 P Rowley 5-11-10 **Mr M Dodd (7)**
2 1 **OLD GOLD** 20 (T) W Biddick 5-11-10 **Mr W Biddick**
3 P-3P4 **SUPREME JOHNSON** 14 (T) M Osborne 6-11-10 **Mr M Osborne (7)**
4 5/1- **FOUNTAINSPINKLADY** 76 Mrs Teresa Clark 5-11-3 **Mr M McIntyre (3)**
5 11P-6 **PENNILESS** 14 N W Padfield 5-11-3 **Mr J Andrews**
6 2- **MUSIQUE DE FEE** 62 Georgina Nicholls 4-10-12 **Mr P Bryan**
7 3- **THEWEDDINGCANWAIT** 34 M Comley 4-10-12 **Mr J King**
6-4 Old Gold, 4-1 Musique De Fee, 5-1 Supreme Johnson, 6-1 Fountainspinklady, 7-1 Penniless, 16-1 others.

Dettori can find winning rhythm on Soul Sister

Rob Wright Racing Editor

Frankie Dettori has already landed one classic in his farewell season and the effervescent Italian can double his tally by landing the Betfred Oaks (4.30) on board **Soul Sister** at Epsom today.

Trained by the father-and-son team of John and Thady Gosden, Soul Sister flopped on heavy ground on her reappearance at Newbury but her stable was struggling for form at the time and in any case the drop to seven furlongs would have been against her.

She looked a different proposition when stepped up to ten furlongs on faster ground in the Musidora Stakes at York, producing a brilliant turn of foot to go from seventh to first in the penultimate furlong and sustaining her run to the line to beat Novakai by four lengths.

A daughter of the brilliant Frankel, there is enough stamina in the dam's side of her pedigree to suggest that Soul Sister will be even more effective over this longer trip. If that is the case, she will be tough to beat.

This fillies' classic has turned into something of a private battle between the Gosden stable and Aidan O'Brien's powerful Irish team, with the two yards winning the past nine renewals. O'Brien has held the upper hand, with six wins in that period, while the rival handlers have had the first two home in four of the past six years.

That could well again be the case today, especially given that the Gosdens have a live second string in Running Lion, while O'Brien saddles three, with hot favourite Savethelastdance joined by two more well-bred fillies in Be Happy and Red Riding Hood.

Savethelastdance won the Cheshire Oaks by 22 lengths and she obviously has to be respected. However, all three of her runs have come with plenty of cut in the ground and underfoot conditions here will provide a different test. At 5-4, she looks short enough.

The best bet of the day is **Bobsleigh** in the EBF 40th Anniversary Woodcote Stakes (2.00). He looked a good prospect on his debut at Brighton, travelling strongly before storming clear. It is likely that connections had this race in mind before starting him off at Brighton as the track is so similar to the twists and turns of Epsom, and that experience will stand him in good stead.

ALAN CROWHURST/GETTY IMAGES



Soul Sister and Dettori can win the Oaks

Epsom
Rob Wright

2.00 Bobsleigh (nap)
2.35 Austrian Theory (nb)
3.10 Emily Upjohn
3.45 Dual Identity
4.30 Soul Sister
5.10 Olivia Maralda
5.45 Urban Sprawl

Going: good — **Racing TV**
Draw: 6f-7f, low numbers best

2.00 British EBF 40th Anniversary Woodcote Stakes — ITV
(2-Y-O: £38,655: 6f) (12 runners)

1	(3)	13	**BALON D'OR** 23 H Palmer 9-7	James Doyle	75
2	(6)	1	**BOBSLEIGH** 30 E J-Houghton 9-7	C Bishop	77
3	(8)	31	**HAATEM** 16 (D) R Hannon 9-7	P Dobbs	75
4	(9)	135	**MYCONIAN** 23 (B) Miss A Murphy 9-7	C Beasley	71
5	(7)	31	**THE CAMDEN COLT** 8 (D) R Hannon 9-7	R L Moore	75
6	(11)	12	**VALOUR AND SWAGGER** 20 K R Burke 9-7	C Lee	♦80
7	(12)	151	**YORKSHIRE TERRIER** 25 Charlie Johnston 9-7	O Murphy	67
8	(10)	2	**FIFTY GRAND SLATER** 12 Miss A Murphy 9-2	H Doyle	62
9	(5)	4	**GLANDFORD** 17 W Jarvis 9-2	N Callan	71
10	(1)	4	**LAND LOVER** 16 Craig Lidster 9-2	C Demuro	67
11	(4)	5	**REDNBLUE SOVEREIGN** 14 T Dascombe 9-2	A Rawlinson	54
12	(2)	02	**MAYMAY** 15 K P De Foy 8-11	B Sayette	67

7-2 Balon D'or, 4-1 Haatem, 5-1 The Camden Colt, Valour And Swagger, 10-1 Bobsleigh, Yorkshire Terrier, 12-1 Land Lover, 14-1 Maymay.

Rob Wright's choice: Bobsleigh looked good when making a winning start at Brighton; he can stage a repeat **Dangers:** Glandford, Balon D'Or

Course specialists

Carlisle: Trainers H Palmer, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%; N Tinkler, 8 from 39, 20.5%. **Jockey** F Norton, 9 winners from 33 rides, 27.3%.

Catterick: Trainers G Tuer, 16 from 83, 19.3%; K Burke, 14 from 77, 18.2%. **Jockey** Z Wheatley, 5 from 19, 26.3%.

Chepstow: Trainers S & E Crisford, 3 from 3, 100%; D O'Meara, 6 from 14, 42.9%. **Jockey** J Crowley, 4 from 9, 44.4%.

Doncaster: Trainers Sir M Prescott, 4 from 14, 28.6%; O Burrows, 7 from 25, 28%. **Jockey** B Loughnane, 3 from 9, 33.3%.

Epsom: Trainers K P De Foy, 4 from 7, 57.1%; C Appleby, 10 from 28, 35.7%. **Jockey** P Dobbs, 4 from 15, 26.7%.

Stratford: Trainers D Christie, 3 from 7, 42.9%; P Nicholls, 10 from 29, 34.5%. **Jockey** Mr D Peters, 3 from 7, 42.9%.

2.35 Racehorse Lotto Handicap — ITV
(£38,655: 1m 113yd) (13)

1	(5)	30-031	**REVICH** 21 (V,C) R Spencer 7-9-9	R L Moore	98
2	(6)	425-00	**ORBAAN** 20 (T) D O'Meara 8-9-8	James Doyle	♦106
3	(1)	3-1100	**ALREHB** 13 (D) K P De Foy 6-9-6	D Muscutt	89
4	(10)	500-00	**RHOSCOLYN** 20 (T,C) D O'Meara 5-9-6	Jason Watson	92
5	(13)	020-45	**FANTASTIC FOX** 21 R Varian 5-9-4	O Murphy	93
6	(8)	00-503	**AUSTRIAN THEORY** 6 Charlie Johnston 4-9-2	J Fanning	65
7	(12)	22-001	**HODLER** 23 (C) J Boyle 4-9-0	P Cosgrave	89
8	(4)	0-1323	**ALL THE KING'S MEN** 13 (B,T,BF) G Boughey 5-9-0	W Buick	88
9	(3)	0-0454	**DUTCH DECOY** 19 Charlie Johnston 6-8-12	N Callan	85
10	(9)	030-01	**REPERTOIRE** 14 D M Simcock 7-8-9	H Doyle	84
11	(11)	26430-	**SATONO JAPAN** J16 A West 6-8-9	C Bennett	77
12	(7)	343136	**MAYSONG** 23 (P) Alice Haynes 6-8-5	K O'Neill	81
13	(2)	34-202	**TWO TEMPTING** 9 (BF) J Portman 4-8-4	Georgia Dobie (3)	67

9-2 All The King's Men, 5-1 Revich, 6-1 Fantastic Fox, Rhoscolyn, 8-1 Dutch Decoy, Austrian Theory, 10-1 Repertoire, Hodler.

Wright choice: Austrian Theory has dropped in the weights and shaped well when third at Chester **Dangers:** All The King's Men, Revich

3.10 Dahlbury Coronation Cup — ITV
(Group I: £241,018: 1m 4f) (5)

1	(2)	/30-01	**HURRICANE LANE** 28 (P,D) C Appleby 5-9-2	W Buick	118
2	(4)	2/0-11	**POINT LONSDALE** 21 A P O'Brien (Ire) 4-9-2	R L Moore	115
3	(5)	1110-2	**TUNNES** 40 (BF,D) P Schiergen (GER) 4-9-2	Rene Piechulek	117
4	(3)	3156-2	**WESTOVER** 69 (D) R Beckett 4-9-2	R Hornby	119
5	(1)	11261-	**EMILY UPJOHN** 230 (H,D) J & T Gosden 4-8-13	L Dettori	♦122

2-1 Westover, 11-4 Emily Upjohn, 3-1 Hurricane Lane, 4-1 Point Lonsdale, 16-1 Tunnes.

Wright choice: Emily Upjohn was a close second in the Oaks a year ago; she improved when fitted with a hood at Ascot in October **Danger:** Westover

3.45 Betfred Handicap — ITV
(£50,960: 1m 2f) (11)

1	(9)	153-52	**SAVVY VICTORY** 21 (BF,D) S P C Woods 4-9-12	R L Moore	100
2	(8)	2234-0	**CADILLAC** 27 (P,D) G Boughey 5-9-11	K Stott	101
3	(3)	042-60	**MASEKELA** 14 A Balding 4-9-5	O Murphy	♦102
4	(10)	310-41	**HONITON** 14 (D) J & T Gosden 4-9-3	James Doyle	97
5	(4)	22-012	**BAD COMPANY** 27 (P,CD) J Boyle 6-9-2	P Cosgrave	96
6	(11)	150-00	**LORD PROTECTOR** 21 (D) R Beckett 5-9-0	R Hornby	98
7	(6)	4210-1	**MARHABA THE CHAMP** 14 (T,D) K Ryan 4-8-12	W Buick	92
8	(1)	233-04	**DUAL IDENTITY** 14 (D) W Knight 5-8-12	N Callan	99
9	(2)	61-404	**MAJESTIC** 14 Jack Channon 5-8-12	C Beasley	93
10	(7)	5-0340	**TOSHIZOU** 15 R Fell 5-8-10	H Doyle	98
11	(5)	0046-0	**THE CITY'S PHANTOM** 27 (P,D) R Spencer 6-8-3	K O'Neill	80

7-2 Honiton, 9-2 Marhaba The Champ, 6-1 Savvy Victory, 7-1 Dual Identity, Majestic, 8-1 Bad Company, 10-1 Masekela, 12-1 Cadillac, Toshizou.

Wright choice: Dual Identity made his move too early when fourth at Newmarket last time; he is well treated **Dangers:** Toshizou, Bad Company

4.30 Betfred Oaks — ITV
(Group I: 3-Y-O fillies: £311,026: 1m 4f) (11)



1 (6) 15-32 **BE HAPPY** 20 (BF) **102**
A P O'Brien (Ire) (Tabor/Smith/Magnier) 9-2 **J A Heffernan**
Unsuited by slow early pace when second to Eternal Hope



2 (3) 133-5 **BRIGHT DIAMOND** 20 **99**
K R Burke (Sheikh Rashid Dalmook Al Maktoum) 9-2 **C Lee**
Raced wider than ideal at Lingfield but plenty to prove



3 (9) 2131-4 **CAERNARFON** 26 **99**
Jack Channon (Hunscote Stud) 9-2 **C Beasley**
Fourth in the 1,000 Guineas; not sure to stay this far



4 (5) 311 **ETERNAL HOPE** 20 (D) **105**
C Appleby (Godolphin) 9-2 **W Buick**
Won Lingfield Oaks Trial; needs more but is unexposed



5 (11) 1-34 **HEARTACHE TONIGHT** 19 **106**
D Menuisier (C Wright And A Macdonald) 9-2 **C Demuro**
Fourth in a group one race at Longchamp; this trip will suit



6 (7) 2 **MAMAN JOON** 42 **87**
R Hannon (Amo Racing Limited) 9-2 **K Stott**
Well beaten on heavy ground at Newbury; sure to improve



7 (8) 2-213 **RED RIDING HOOD** 27 (B) **102**
A P O'Brien (Ire) (Smith/Magnier/Tabor) 9-2 **W M Lordan**
Raced too keenly early on when third at Naas; needs to relax



8 (2) 411-11 **RUNNING LION** 26 **108**
J & T Gosden (Mr D P Howden) 9-2 **O Murphy**
Easy winner of a listed race at Newmarket; this is tougher



9 (4) 5-11 **SAVETHELASTDANCE** 23 **♦ 113**
A P O'Brien (Ire) (Magnier/Tabor/Smith) 9-2 **R L Moore**
Most impressive at Chester; faster ground an unknown



10 (1) 21-25 **SEA OF ROSES** 16 **92**
A Balding (Weldspec Glasgow Limited) 9-2 **R Hornby**
Will relish this step up in trip but has plenty to find



11 (10) 1-01 **SOUL SISTER** 16 **112**
J & T Gosden (Lady Bamford) 9-2 **L Dettori**
Brilliant turn of foot at York; likely to appreciate this trip

11-10 Savethelastdance, 9-4 Soul Sister, 5-1 Running Lion, 12-1 others.

Wright choice: Soul Sister impressed with the way she quickened past her rivals at York; she can follow up **Dangers:** Savethelastdance, Running Lion

Auguste Rodin tops Derby field

Auguste Rodin, trained by Aidan O'Brien, is the 11-4 favourite for the Betfred Derby after a final field of 14 was declared for the colts' classic at Epsom tomorrow. Godolphin's Military Order is next in the betting at 4-1, with the Frankie Dettori-ridden Arrest on offer at 13-2.

5.10 Nyetimber Surrey Stakes
(Listed: 3-Y-O: £42,532: 7f) (9)

1	(5)	10-11	**HE'S A MONSTER** 58 (D) A Watson 9-2	H Doyle	106
2	(3)	032-22	**HOLGUIN** 20 A Balding 9-2	O Murphy	♦112
3	(2)	1111-6	**STREETS OF GOLD** 41 (W,D) E J-Houghton 9-2	C Bishop	106
4	(9)	330060	**TENJIN** 27 (H) J Ryan 9-2	D Keenan	99
5	(8)	411-56	**MAGICAL SUNSET** 30 (D) R Hannon 9-0	P Dobbs	102
6	(1)	151-34	**SECRET ANGEL** 20 K R Burke 9-0	C Lee	101
7	(4)	21230-	**DANDY ALYS** 243 R Beckett 8-11	R Hornby	103
8	(6)	10-4	**ELVENIA** 101 (BF) K Ryan 8-11	N Callan	104
9	(7)	0120-0	**OLIVIA MARALDA** 26 (D) R Varian 8-11	K Stott	110

6-4 Holguin, 9-2 Olivia Maralda, 6-1 Secret Angel, Streets Of Gold, 10-1 Dandy Alys, He's A Monster, 12-1 Magical Sunset, 25-1 Elvenia, 50-1 Tenjin.

Wright choice: Olivia Maralda drops in trip after failing to stay when a fair seventh in the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket **Dangers:** Holguin, Elvenia

5.45 Winners Wear Cavani Handicap
(£38,655: 7f) (13)

1	(5)	10-612	**SPANISH STAR** 11 (D) P Chamings 8-10-2	R Clutterbuck	91
2	(8)	600162	**ON A SESSION** 6 (D) D & N Barron 7-10-2	C Beasley	84
3	(2)	3210-6	**POCKET THE PROFIT** 27 (D) G Boughey 4-10-1	K Stott	81
4	(7)	-26406	**DARKNESS** 10 (B,D) D O'Meara 5-9-11	H Doyle	84
5	(12)	521324	**WYVERN** 29 (P,D) S C Williams 4-9-9	B Sayette	85
6	(13)	21-5	**CLOCHETTE** 14 A Balding 3-9-9	O Murphy	90
7	(3)	10-065	**MARLAY PARK** 7 (CD) J Boyle 5-9-8	P Cosgrave	85
8	(9)	035361	**LORD RAPSCALLION** 15 (B,T,D) S C Williams 7-9-8	M Ghiani	83
9	(4)	040-15	**RIOT** 14 (D) D O'Meara 6-9-8	Jason Watson	75
10	(6)	11-231	**URBAN SPRAWL** 6 (D) Charlie Johnston 3-9-7(6ex)	J Fanning	♦93
11	(10)	2155-0	**BLUELIGHT BAY** 43 E J-Houghton 3-9-6	C Bishop	82
12	(11)	135-53	**SIGNCASTLE CITY** 13 R Hannon 3-9-2	P Dobbs	86
13	(1)	155004	**SECRET STRENGTH** 9 (P,D) J Boyle 4-9-0	L Catton (5)	78

9-2 Urban Sprawl, 6-1 Clochette, On A Session, 7-1 Marlay Park, 8-1 Lord Rapscallion, Signcastle City, 10-1 Riot, Spanish Star.

Wright choice: Urban Sprawl makes a quick reappearance after his easy Goodwood win; can defy a 6lb penalty **Dangers:** Clochette, Signcastle City

Doncaster
Rob Wright

5.05 Drafted
5.40 Embesto
6.15 La Trinidad
6.45 Aimeric
7.15 Perfuse
7.45 Showtime Mahomes
8.15 Another Run
8.50 Bookmark

Going: good, good to firm in places
Draw: 5f-6f, high numbers best
Sky Sports Racing

5.05 Handicap
(3-Y-O: £4,397: 7f) (9)

1	(9)	21-	**POP WORLD** 258 M Dods 9-10	P Dennis
2	(8)	32-21	**AMERICAN BELLE** 29 (T,D) J Fanshawe 9-10	R Havlin
3	(5)	66-54	**ROCK OF ENGLAND** 25 E Bethell 9-9	C Rodriguez
4	(2)	0326-	**MAJESTIC NEWLAW** 250 P & O Cole 9-8	Rossa Ryan
5	(1)	51310	**NUTHATCH** 31 (D) J Osborne 9-7	S Osborne
6	(6)	6-35	**EAGLE DAY** 25 K Ryan 9-6	T Eaves
7	(7)	210-0	**OSCAR'S SISTER** 34 (D) J Camacho 9-6	Billy Loughnane (3)
8	(4)	5351-	**DRAFTED** 216 (D) James Horton 9-5	P J McDonald
9	(3)	-3024	**WADI BANI** 14 (T) S Durack 9-2	J P Spencer

100-30 American Belle, 9-2 Wadi Bani, Pop World, 5-1 Drafted, 7-1 Rock Of England, 8-1 Eagle Day, 12-1 Majestic Newlaw, 14-1 Oscar's Sister, 20-1 Nuthatch.

5.40 Novice Stakes
(3-Y-O: £4,320: 1m) (13)

1	(11)	1	**EMBESTO** 31 (D) R Varian 9-11	David Egan
2	(5)	1-	**MODESTY** 237 (D) M Meade 9-11	J P Spencer
3	(9)	2	**CARBIS BAY** 102 M Botti 9-4	A Atzeni
4	(4)	62	**HALLA DUBAI** 24 Owen Burrows 9-4	R Kingscote
5	(2)		**KOVU** L Mullaney 9-4	C Shepherd
6	(1)	0-0	**MORCAR** 24 R Hannon 9-4	S Hitchcott
7	(7)	0-	**MY HARRISON GEORGE** 287 R Fahey 9-4	D Nolan
8	(13)	0	**NEW YORK BAY** 14 G Kelleway 9-4	Sorin Moldoveanu (7)
9	(10)	00-	**SOLUTION** 170 R Beckett 9-4	Rossa Ryan
10	(6)		**SOOWAIH** R Varian 9-4	J Mitchell
11	(12)		**TUJJAAR** R Hannon 9-4	D O'Neill
12	(8)		**UNLIMITED** W Haggas 9-4	T Marquand
13	(3)	00-	**MISS LIGHTFANDANGO** 216 C Hills 8-13	S Osborne

15-8 Embesto, 3-1 Modesty, 13-2 Halla Dubai, 7-1 Carbis Bay, 10-1 Tujjaar, Soowaih, 12-1 Unlimited, 25-1 My Harrison George.

6.15 Handicap
(£5,653: 1m) (11)

1	(10)	21641	**MAY NIGHT** 67 (P) S C Williams 5-9-10	Rossa Ryan
2	(1)	61-61	**SIAM FOX** 31 (CD) K Frost 5-9-9	J F Egan
3	(8)	203-3	**LA TRINIDAD** 46 (C,D) R Fell 6-9-9	J Peate (3)
4	(6)	21200	**TROPEZ POWER** 15 (D) J J Quinn 4-9-8	J Hart
5	(2)	10-06	**DIAMONDONTHEHILL** 13 (D) M Dods 5-9-7	C Rodriguez
6	(11)	016-4	**GREY FOX** 25 (P,T,D) E Lavelle 6-9-2	T Marquand
7	(3)	641-6	**SOPHOSC** 25 (D) I Williams 7-9-1	B Sanderson (3)
8	(9)	5-006	**TRUE JEM** 18 K R Burke 4-8-13	Billy Loughnane (3)
9	(7)	005-4	**ELLADE** 24 (D) R Hannon 4-8-12	D O'Neill
10	(4)	4-041	**COPPER AND FIVE** 13 (CD) R Carr 7-8-10	F McManoman
11	(5)	00434	**KING OF YORK** 13 (P) S Dixon 4-8-7	L Morris

7-2 Siam Fox, 4-1 May Night, 6-1 Copper And Five, 7-1 La Trinidad, 8-1 Tropez Power, 10-1 Diamondonthehill, King Of York, 12-1 Sophosc.

6.45 Handicap
(£9,631: 1m 4f) (9)

1	(5)	1010-	**AIMERIC** 238 (W,D) R Varian 4-9-11	J Mitchell
2	(8)	120-0	**EDUCATOR** 38 (BF) W Haggas 4-9-8	T Marquand
3	(4)	0153/	**APPARATE** 587 (C,D) J Osborne 7-9-7	S Osborne
4	(2)	00-02	**HASTY SAILOR** 15 (T,D) Sir M Stoute 6-9-6	R Kingscote
5	(7)	4113-	**WOR WILLIE** 258 (D) M Dods 5-9-5	C Rodriguez
6	(6)	4051/	**JARAMILLO** J32 (P) W Greatrex 5-9-4	T Greatrex
7	(1)	30-06	**WANDERING ROCKS** 14 (H,T,C) J Fanshawe 4-9-4	C Shepherd
8	(3)	210/5	**JOHN LOCKE** J97 (T) Mrs S Leech 6-8-12	L Morris
9	(9)	03-46	**AUSTRALIAN ANGEL** 14 A Balding 4-8-11	H Davies (3)

3-1 Hasty Sailor, 7-2 Aimeric, 4-1 Educator, 6-1 Wor Willie, 10-1 Australian Angel, Wandering Rocks, 12-1 Apparate, 14-1 Jaramillo, 20-1 John Locke.

7.15 Novice Stakes
(3-Y-O: £4,320: 1m 4f) (5)

1	(3)	1	**CIRCUIT BREAKER** 25 R Beckett 9-11	Rossa Ryan
2	(2)	10	**INQUIRING MINDS** 20 J & T Gosden 9-11	R Havlin
3	(4)	21	**PERFUSE** 21 Sir M Stoute 9-11	R Kingscote
4	(1)		**HONDO** R Fell 9-4	J Peate (3)
5	(5)		**STAR TURN** A King 9-4	A Atzeni

11-8 Perfuse, 7-4 Inquiring Minds, 3-1 Circuit Breaker, 20-1 Star Turn, 50-1 Hondo.

7.45 Handicap
(£5,653: 6f) (8)

1	(3)	0-401	**VENTURA EXPRESS** 7 P Midgley 6-9-11(5ex)	D Nolan
2	(8)	5-030	**RATHBONE** 13 (BF,CD) M Herrington 7-9-9	T Eaves
3	(2)	113-0	**TEMPLE BRUER** 41 (P,T,CD) M Murphy & M Keady 5-9-7	Rossa Ryan
4	(5)	0-004	**MARK'S CHOICE** 21 (B,T,D) A Keatley 7-9-6	D Costello
5	(4)	00-50	**OSO RAPIDO** 23 (D) R Fell 6-9-5	J Peate (3)
6	(7)	00-26	**SHOWTIME MAHOMES** 27 (D) G Tuer 4-9-4	P J McDonald
7	(1)	31-40	**MILBANKE** 14 (D) R Carr 4-9-2	J Hart
8	(6)	2-252	**MAXZENO** 20 (T) M Appleby 4-8-13	Billy Loughnane (3)

7-4 Ventura Express, 9-2 Maxzeno, 11-2 Showtime Mahomes, 13-2 Rathbone, 15-2 Mark's Choice, 10-1 Milbanke, 12-1 Temple Bruer, 16-1 Oso Rapido.

8.15 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,397: 1m 4f) (7)

1	(7)	16	**FLOWER OF DUBAI** 29 S & E Crisford 9-11	A Atzeni
2	(6)	0-323	**ANOTHER RUN** 49 A Balding 9-10	H Davies (3)
3	(3)	6-26	**BRAVURA** 122 Sir M Prescott 9-9	L Morris
4	(2)	62-6	**SUTUE ALSHAMS** 34 I Jardine 9-7	A Mullen
5	(1)	55-62	**BULLDOG SPIRIT** 11 Charlie Johnston 9-7	J Mitchell
6	(4)	435-0	**SEA MASTER** 44 Charlie Johnston 9-7	R Kingscote
7	(5)	400-0	**TWO PAST EIGHT** 17 A King 9-4	Rossa Ryan

5-2 Bravura, 100-30 Bulldog Spirit, 4-1 Flower Of Dubai, 5-1 Another Run, 10-1 Sutue Alshams, Sea Master, 12-1 Two Past Eight.

8.50 Handicap (£4,397: 1m 4f) (9)

1	(5)	32532	**LEXINGTON KNIGHT** 11 (T,D) R Hannon 5-9-11	D O'Neill
2	(8)	355-	**ALNILAM** 234 M Harris 4-9-11	David Egan
3	(4)	3/30-	**RED ROYALIST** J308 (P,T) M Murphy & M Keady 9-9-9	C Shepherd
4	(9)	0002/	**SAYWHATYOUWANT** J204 (T) F O'Brien 5-9-8	S Osborne
5	(1)	64500	**SWORD BEACH** 14 (P) A King 6-9-8	Rossa Ryan
6	(6)	50-03	**BOOKMARK** 31 (CD) M Loughnane 5-9-8	Billy Loughnane (3)
7	(3)	0-504	**MYTHICAL** 17 Simon Whitaker 6-9-7	P Dennis
8	(2)	61263	**LIBERATED LAD** 80 (P,T,BF,D) B Brookhouse 5-9-3	L Morris
9	(7)	0-102	**GOLDEN VINTAGE** 87 (P,D) J O'Keeffe 4-9-2	P J McDonald

11-4 Lexington Knight, 9-2 Bookmark, 6-1 Liberated Lad, 13-2 Mythical, 7-1 Golden Vintage, 8-1 Alnilam, 10-1 Sword Beach, Saywhatyouwant, 20-1 Red Royalist.

Yesterday's racing results

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.12 (6f 1yd) 1, **Savannah Smiles** (S M Levey, 15-2); 2, Havana Heat (7-2 fav); 3, Lahina Bay (18-1). 12 ran. Hd, 3l. T Ward.

2.42 (6f 1yd) 1, **Garner** (Hollie Doyle, 4-7 fav); 2, Another Thought (11-8); 3, Passion Tango (28-1). 6 ran. NR: Port Meadow. 3½l, 1¼l. A Watson.

3.12 (5f 6yd) 1, **Doctor Mozart** (Saffie Osborne, 15-2); 2, Victors Dream (13-8 fav); 3, Missing You (11-1). 8 ran. NR: Don't Fight It, Rewilding. Sh hd, 1l. P D Evans.

3.42 (1m 1yd) 1, **Brains** (R Coakley, 13-8 fav); 2, Business (9-4); 3, Game Nation (50-1). 10 ran. NR: Proud Fairy. 2½l, ¾l. J Butler.

4.12 (1m 3f 133yd) 1, **Star From Afarhh** (R Coakley, 9-4 fav); 2, Rechercher (3-1); 3, Cirrus (25-1). 6 ran. NR: Sainte Colette. ¾l, ns. E Walker.

4.42 (1m 3f 133yd) 1, **Mr Freedom** (T E Whelan, 5-6 fav); 2, Iconic Mover (9-1); 3, This Ones For Fred (11-1). 7 ran. 2½l, 1¼l. Miss S West.

5.12 (2m 68yd) 1, **Easy Equation** (Aidan Keeley, 12-1); 2, Russian Rumour (5-1); 3, Cherry Cola (9-4 fav). 8 ran. ½l, hd. J S Moore.

Placepot: £14.90.
Quadpot: £5.20.

Ripon

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.20 (6f) 1, **Pretty Crystal** (D Nolan, 13-8 fav); 2, Snafiya (9-2); 3, Tokyo Drift (100-30). 10 ran. 1¾l, nk. R A Fahey.

2.50 (1m) 1, **Indiana Be** (Callum Rodriguez, 2-13 fav); 2, Mass Consumption (18-1); 3, Ribble Rouser (12-1). 5 ran. NR: Sidney's Son. 4l, 1l. E Bethell.

3.20 (1m 1f 170yd) 1, **Fulfilled** (Hayley Turner, 7-2); 2, Golden Melody (5-1); 3, Tele Red (9-4 fav). 7 ran. Nk, 3½l. D M Simcock.

3.50 (1m 4f 10yd) 1, **Knightswood** (J Fanning, 7-4 fav); 2, Gastronomy (11-2); 3, Haarar (2-1). 5 ran. 2¾l, 1l. Charlie Johnston.

4.20 (1m 1f 170yd) 1, **Cockalorum** (Jason Hart, 8-1); 2, Baryshnikov (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Poet's Dawn (12-1). 8 ran. ns, nk. R Fell.

4.50 (6f) 1, **Another Baar** (J Fanning, 7-4 fav); 2, Caesars Pearl (9-2); 3, We'renotreallyhere (15-2). 9 ran. 3l, 4¼l. A Keatley.

5.22 (6f) 1, **Hurstwood** (Mark Winn, 5-1); 2, Giselles Izzy (100-30 fav); 3, Macho Pride (7-2). 11 ran. 1¾l, 1l. P D Niven.

Placepot: £25.30.
Quadpot: £16.40.

Yarmouth

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.00 (1m 3yd) 1, **Simply Gorgeous** (Oisin Murphy, 8-1); 2, Bold And Loyal (15-2); 3, Fillyfudge (15-2). 10 ran. NR: Roaring River. 1¼l, sh hd. P S McEntee.

2.30 (7f 3yd) 1, **Lightning Leo** (Hector Crouch, 10-1); 2, Sayedaty Sadaty (15-2); 3, Quatre Bras (9-2). 11 ran. ns, ½l. A Watson.

3.00 (1m 3f 104yd) 1, **Trooper Bisdee** (Thore Hammer Hansen, 11-4); 2, Rogue Tornado (8-1); 3, Lough Leane (11-1). 10 ran. NR: La Espanola, Raincloud. Nk, ½l. Sir Mark Prescott.

3.30 (1m 3f 104yd) 1, **Ghara** (Andrea Atzeni, Evens fav); 2, King Of The Plains (2-1); 3, Liable (13-2). 5 ran. NR: Desejada. hd, 2½l. J & T Gosden.

4.00 (1m 3yd) 1, **Lady Eros** (Oisin Murphy, 6-4 fav); 2, United Front (4-1); 3, Chief's Will (16-1). 8 ran. 2l, 1¼l. J & T Gosden.

4.30 (7f 3yd) 1, **Red Treasure** (Oisin Murphy, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Taritino (4-1); 3, Hello Arthur (16-1). 8 ran. Nk, hd. E A L Dunlop.

5.00 (7f 3yd) 1, **Flying Secret** (Charles Bishop, 8-1); 2, Cubanista (10-1); 3, Crack Regiment (13-2). 8 ran. ½l, 7l. Eve Johnson Houghton.

Placepot: £357.50.
Quadpot: £13.00.

Carlisle

Going: good

5.50 (5f) 1, **Catton Lady** (Billy Garritty, 33-1); 2, Mauna Loa (5-4 fav); 3, Bellarchi (11-2). 9 ran. nk, nk. Billy Garritty.

6.20 (5f 182yd) 1, **Dawn Charger** (C Lee, 4-7 fav); 2, Charged Up (11-2); 3, Arc Shadowfax (9-2). 9 ran. 2½l, ½l. K R Burke.

6.50 (1m 1f) 1, **Star Start** (P Mulrennan, 20-1); 2, Obama Army (6-4 fav); 3, Hidden Code (5-1). 12 ran. ½l, sh hd. R Menzies.

7.25 (1m 1f) 1, **Flying Frontier** (C Lee, 100-30); 2, Iron Lion (4-1); 3, Mambo Sunset (17-2). 11 ran. 2l, ¾l. J Tate.

7.55 (1m 6f 32yd) 1, **World Without Love** (F Norton, 11-5 fav); 2, Glasses Up (9-2); 3, Detective (11-4). 5 ran. NR: Notimeforanother. 2l, 1l. Charlie Johnston.

8.30 (6f 195yd) 1, **B Associates** (P Mulrennan, 6-5 fav); 2, Bernie The Bear (4-1); 3, The Muffin Man (17-2). 9 ran. 4l, 5½l. J S Goldie.

9.00 (1m 3f 39yd) 1, **Graces Quest** (P Mulrennan, 9-4); 2, Belle Of Annandale (7-2); 3, Annandale (2-1 fav). 6 ran. ¾l, nk. J S Goldie.

Placepot: £17.20.
Quadpot: £12.30.

Market Rasen

Going: good

5.40 (2m 4f 139yd hdle) 1, **Johnny Dogs** (Nathan Moscrop, 9-4); 2, Woodie Flash (4-11 fav); 3, Matoury (40-1). 4 ran. NR: Basford. 3½l, 1¾l. S Corbett.

6.10 (2m 125yd hdle) 1, **Carrarea** (Jamie Hamilton, 30-100 fav); 2, Outsmart (13-2); 3, Saint Jaguen (9-2). 7 ran. 5l, ½l. M Walford.

6.40 (2m 125yd hdle) 1, **Belvedere Blast** (Henry Brooke, 6-1); 2, Kolisi (9-2); 3, More To Follow (2-1). 6 ran. NR: Double Click. 9l, 1¾l. A Keatley.

7.10 (2m 4f 139yd hdle) 1, **Kihavah** (B S Hughes, 16-5); 2, Shallow River (13-2); 3, Midnight Ginger (11-4 fav). 9 ran. NR: Inca Prince. ½l, 6l. A Keatley.

7.45 (2m 3f 34yd ch) 1, **Reserve Tank** (S Bowen, 11-4); 2, Cilluirid (16-1); 3, Friary Rock (11-10 fav). 5 ran. 1l, 2l. P Bowen.

8.15 (3m 3f 123yd ch) 1, **Victory Echo** (Conor Rabbitt, 11-8 fav); 2, D'jango (4-1); 3, Zoffalee (7-2). 4 ran. NR: Coup De Pinceau. 7l, 11l. M A Barnes.

8.45 (2m 125yd Flat) 1, **The Gambler** (Charlie Hammond, 5-1); 2, Hot Fizzy Lizzy (1-5 fav); 3, Cave Bleu (40-1). 4 ran. NR: Buck Of Maine. 7l, ½l. M Young.

Placepot: £275.10. **Quadpot: £76.30.**

‘I kept son’s autism hidden for 30 years’

Pat Nevin tells **Henry Winter** of the private heartache that would turn into a source of pride and joy for him and his wife



Pat Nevin has always seemed such a carefree figure, the defender-defeating, music-loving free spirit, hanging his leather jacket alongside the straitjackets of professional dressing rooms. For the past three decades, dancing down the wing at Tranmere Rovers, Kilmarnock, Motherwell and Scotland, working as the Professional Footballers’ Association chairman, club chief executive, club-land DJ and popular broadcaster, Nevin had a private heartache that eventually became a source of pride and joy.

His son Simon, 33, has autism, and Nevin has now decided to talk publicly about it, after consulting his wife, Annabel, the font of patience and common sense he fell in love with when students in Glasgow in the early Eighties, and Simon himself. Nevin writes powerfully about Simon and autism in his new book, released tomorrow, *Football And How To Survive It*.

We meet at the Wallace Collection in Marylebone — Sir Richard, not Jock. Nevin is sitting outside in the sunshine, finishing a crossword, and we head inside, into the peace and calm of the famous London gallery, a counterpoint to the tumultuous events in his life. “It is an apocalypse,” he begins. “Something dark happens, which is the most important thing in my life, and I’ve never spoken about it, nobody knows until this book. My son’s autistic. I’m not a victim, and neither is Simon.

“Annabel and I realised when Simon wasn’t getting on as quickly as other kids. We first thought he was just a bit slow, maybe shy.” It was clearly deeper than the Terrible Twos. It was the insistence on spending hours watching clown triggerfish at Chester Zoo, the hating of any disruption to routine, the inexplicable tantrums in public. “Nobody knew about autism then,” Nevin continues. “It feels a different planet now. There’s understanding now, people you can talk to. We were drowning then.”

Pat and Annabel sought advice, the diagnosis was autism, and everything changed. “Reality hits,” Nevin says. “It was the torture of seeing it, understanding it, what we were going through. I was playing football, being PFA chairman, but all the other stuff, going to gigs, can’t do any of that, that’s gone. I had a problem to deal with.”

So many problems, at home and away in the game. On January 25, 1995, Nevin was watching Manchester United away to Crystal Palace. As PFA chairman, he had to keep up on all issues that may affect union members. “And then Eric Cantona decides to drop-kick somebody, I’m chairman of the PFA and he’s our player of the year. I’m sitting there going, ‘Oh cheers’. I didn’t even want to be chairman. As chairman, I have to back him, but, I mean, how do you defend the indefensible? We had to say, ‘Well, it just shows how well behaved our members are that no one’s ever done this before.’ I got battered.”

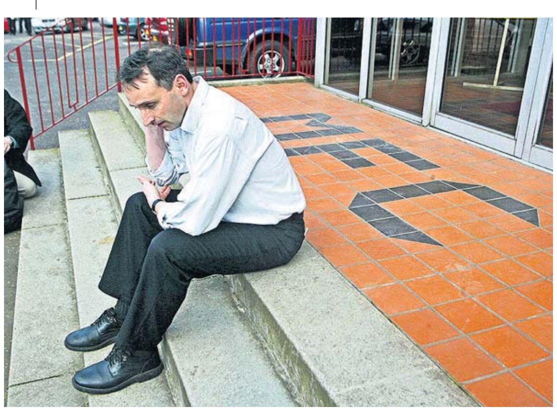
At the time, after acclaimed contributions for Chelsea and Everton, Nevin was playing for Tranmere, and dealing with the early manifestations of Simon’s autism. It shows Nevin’s resilience that he continued to perform. “I played the best football of my career at Tranmere. I played more times for Scotland when I was at Tranmere than all my other clubs put together.”

Nevin’s double life continued, looking after Simon with Annabel. “I need to make sure I make enough money that he’s taken care of. I can’t absolutely trust the state to do it.” Cocooned in the genteel surrounds of the Wallace Collection, we consider the repetitive strains in our own characters. Isn’t everyone on the spectrum, I venture, it’s just how far along?

“Yes, 100 per cent,” Nevin replies. “My spectrum moments were more obvious when I was younger.” Inevitably with Nevin it was music-related. “I remember at 14 knowing every single beat of a Genesis double album [*The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway*].

MARK THOMPSON/GETTY IMAGES





Nevin’s time as a player with Tranmere, above, coincided with some of his best football but his exit from financially struggling Motherwell, below, where he was chief executive, was a traumatic period

“I can tell you every single sound in the background of *Unknown Pleasures* and *Closer* by Joy Division. I thought that was me having my passions. In fact, there’s a big echo there of certain autistic traits I’ve watched with Simon.”

He’s just wired differently. “Annabel and I went to Gleneagles when Simon was eight with some other kids, and they were going on the mini Land Rovers, and we said to the guy [instructor], ‘Simon, he’s autistic, he’s different. He may have a meltdown.’ When Simon came back, the guy just went, ‘Utter natural, best of them by miles, every single piece of information in, that boy can drive.’ That moment we just thought, ‘There’s hope.’

“Simon’s now a driver, drives special needs kids to school in the morning and back in the afternoon. He started to talk about the concept of his autism more recently. I asked him if he minded if I wrote about him, and he said, ‘Oh, have you Dad?’ He’s fine with it. I couldn’t be more proud of how well he’s done. Simon’s always there. He will always live with us.

“Annabel’s fabulous. One of my student pals in Glasgow had a girlfriend, she met me for two minutes and went, ‘I’ve got a flatmate, you’ve never met her, and you’ll marry her.’ And we’re still together.” They discussed the strains on their relationship. “I knew that would be a danger. I knew it would affect who we were, but it would never get between us. I do not blame any parent if it does.”

All the while, Nevin was a public figure, playing for Motherwell and working as chief executive and discovering the 18-yard line was actually 16 yards, and the crossbar too low. “Sometimes the goals aren’t up, so you put the posts in the ground, and the ground can be impacted, and one post higher than the other.”

Every potential purchaser of a club needs to read the chapters on Motherwell, and their owner at the time, John Boyle. “Everyone thinks he can walk in and treat it like any other business,” Nevin recalls. “I said to John, ‘Look, if you’re buying this as an ego trip, you’re off your head.’ He said, no, he was doing it for the community. His heart was in the right place.”

Nevin had studied economics and accounts, knew the game inside out; he threw himself into playing under Billy Davies and running the club, and firefighting. In February 1999 old pictures surfaced of his goalkeeper, Andy Goram, standing by a UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force) banner at a Rangers supporters’ event in Northern Ireland. “Our goalkeeper was being threatened by the IRA that he’s going to be shot next week, which I’m having to deal with,” Nevin says.

Nevin dealt with it, knowing that he would get criticised either way, with a focus on his being Catholic, although not particularly religious. Invited to a team-mate’s wedding, Nevin was instructed to stay in the garden as the player’s father wouldn’t allow Catholics in the house.

Awareness of sectarianism — a strident, disconcerting part of Nevin’s book — shaped his early matchgoing experiences with Simon. “Celtic were very, very strong against sectarianism,” Nevin says. “The club had campaigns [such as “Bhoys Against Bigotry”], they don’t want sectarian singing. But I couldn’t carry on being a Celtic supporter. I was 32, 33, always been a Celtic fan, but I wanted to be Hibs.

“A lot has to do with Simon. If you put someone who’s not neurotypical into that febrile atmosphere, it’s very dangerous, especially in the social media age. If Simon had been with Celtic, and didn’t understand the nuances of saying something, it could be on social media, he’d be hammered and it would ruin his life. I hated that IRA stuff? I’m never going to walk that walk with you. But I’ll admit the Old Firm’s a guilty pleasure. Everton v Liverpool? Scotland v England? Chelsea v Arsenal? Chelsea v Spurs? All secondary to Celtic-Rangers.”

Nevin can still see the difference between bigots on the terraces and the club itself. “I went to Chelsea [in 1983], and Chelsea had a lot of racists, and people said to me, ‘How did you play for them?’ But they [the racists] are not the club. Chelsea consistently said, ‘We don’t want you people.’ If you look at Chelsea, under Roman [Abramovich] specifically, and the antisemitism stuff he’s done, it’s good.”

But back to Motherwell. Boyle overspent. “We took a Learjet to the Champions League final,” Nevin recalls of the owner’s trip with two

> There’s understanding now, people you can talk to. We were drowning then

Manchester United-supporting friends and Nevin to Barcelona in 1999. And back at Fir Park, Boyle would go into the dressing room. “A chairman should never go into the dressing room — rather pertinent at the moment.”

Todd Boehly, the Chelsea co-controlling owner, went in after the recent loss to Brighton & Hove Albion, a move accepted by Frank Lampard, the interim head coach. “This is not an analogy aimed at the present Chelsea situation,” Nevin, who works for the club, emphasises. “Frank had to say what he had to say but it will almost never, ever help. It looks pure ego. Players are all nice in front of you and doing [rude signs] behind your back. You’re undermining the manager.”

It was Motherwell’s overspending and the collapse of the TV deal that holed the club. Nevin was ordered to get the wage bill down from £2.8 million a year to £1.6 million, then was told the club didn’t need a physio or doctor. “Boyle’s money was drying up, the TV deal crashed and burnt,” Nevin says. At a board meeting on April 24, 2002, Nevin was the sole vote against putting Motherwell into administration. Frustrated, Nevin still felt he had playing assets, such as Lee McCulloch, to sell, to stay solvent.

Nevin reflected on one positive. “I thought it might have died,” he says. “Third Lanark died [the club, founder members of the Scottish Football League, were wound up in 1967]. I couldn’t let that happen.” Nevin went off to see staff before resigning. “Morally, I couldn’t stay when people were being laid off. I’m a union man,” he says.

With that, Nevin walked out of the entrance of Fir Park, and sat on the steps, tie off, gloves long off, captured for posterity in an iconic photo. “Devastated, exhausted, old, tired, everything negative you can think of is in that picture,” Nevin says. “It’s a brilliant picture which I hate and love.”

He eventually rose, climbed in his car and returned to the Borders to Annabel and Simon. Pat Nevin, football man, music man, family man, always does.

● *Football And How To Survive It* by Pat Nevin is published tomorrow by Octopus at £22.

Scamacca is not suited to play for West Ham, claims Antonio

CONTINUED FROM BACK

otherwise it will be very complicated for us."

Fiorentina, who play their final match of the Serie A season against Sassuolo tonight, lost to Inter Milan in the Coppa Italia final, but Italiano, who had every member of his squad practise penalty kicks at the end of yesterday's training session, said they would draw on the experience.

"The Coppa final told us that we've played well," he said. "We made some mistakes which prevented us from lifting that trophy, but we are taking all the positive aspects from that match because we made it hard for a Champions League finalist.

"We didn't respect Inter too much, and we managed to play [well] to get to these two finals. We should not cry as we did at home. We need to limit these errors as much as possible."

Michail Antonio, meanwhile, has taken the unusual step of publicly criticising his West Ham team-mate Gianluca Scamacca, saying that the Italy forward "can't play the way the gaffer plays".

Speaking on the *Filthy Fellas* podcast, Antonio suggested that Scamacca was unwilling to do the chasing and scrapping that Moyes's system requires. "I'm going to be honest, he's actually [high] quality [as a player]," Antonio said. "The problem is, he can't play the way the gaffer plays. He needs a different type of manager to play his type of football. He needs a manager [where] he can have other players come off him.

"You can see that the ball comes into him and it sticks and he's tidy. But how David Moyes plays is more like, if you're up front you're dealing with scraps and you've got to be more of a fighter. And that's not him."

Scamacca, 24, has scored only three league goals this season after his £30 million move from Sassuolo last summer, with West Ham hoping that his arrival would lighten the load on the 33-year-old Antonio's troublesome hamstrings.

Things have not worked out and Scamacca is likely to return to Italy after a disjointed season that was ended by a knee injury in April.

Antonio, though, has regained his form, ending the season with 14 goals across all competitions.

West Ham believe that Scamacca has not used his 6ft 5in frame well enough and that he has failed to develop his game to make more runs into the penalty area. Moyes called Roberto Mancini, the Italy head coach, for a check on Scamacca, who scored 16 league goals for Sassuolo last season, after losing out on his main target, Armando Broja, whom he admired for his strength in pressing.

Chelsea dithered over the offer for Broja and finally refused to let the Albania striker leave, although that could change this summer. Scamacca joined West Ham at the end of July but was slow to get up to speed because of a disrupted pre-season followed by a bad virus.

Moyes then signed Danny Ings in January because of Scamacca's absence with injury, worries over Antonio's history of hamstring issues and the threat of relegation. Ings scored twice in his 17 league appearances.



Scamacca has scored only three league goals this term

DAVID PRICE/ARSENAL FC/GETTY IMAGES



Bedford's new role is one of the most senior held by a woman in the men's game

Brentford hire female coach

Sasha Nugara

Brentford have become the first Premier League club to appoint a female head coach to a men's team after Lydia Bedford took charge of their under-18s.

The former Leicester City Women manager will coach the youth side next season. It is one of the most senior coaching roles ever held by a woman in men's professional football in England.

The 35-year-old, whose most recent position was as an assistant coach at Arsenal Women, will work alongside Jon-Paul Pittman, who joins as assistant coach from Forest Green Rovers.

"I'm really pleased that we've managed to attract such talented coaches as Lydia and Jon-Paul to our under-18 team for next year," Phil Giles, the Brentford director of football, said.

"We undertook an extensive recruitment process for these roles. Lydia and Jon-Paul were the two best candidates. Thankfully we were able to finalise their recruitment to the staff."

Brentford took steps towards increasing diversity in 2021 by appointing Preeti Shetty and Deji Davies in non-executive director roles, making Shetty the only British South Asian woman in a Premier League boardroom.

Bedford became the Women's Super League's youngest manager when she took charge of Leicester in 2021, but was sacked in November last year after a difficult start to the 2022-23 season.

She went to Brunel University with ambition to become a PE teacher. By the time she graduated she had earned her Uefa B Licence and was coaching at the Middlesex Girls' Centre of Excellence, working with their under-17 side. In 2014 she passed her A Licence, and in 2019 she gained Uefa's Pro Licence qualification.

Chelsea will keep Colwill

Tom Roddy

Chelsea are refusing to entertain offers for the defender Levi Colwill after Brighton & Hove Albion expressed strong interest in signing the centre back.

Colwill, who was on loan at the Amex Stadium this season, helped Brighton to achieve qualification to the Europa League with a historic sixth-place finish in the Premier League this season.

Roberto De Zerbi has told the club to strengthen his squad — he expects to lose the midfielders Alexis Mac Allister and Moisés Caicedo — and signing Colwill on a permanent basis has been one of his primary wishes.

Chelsea's new head coach Mauricio Pochettino has admired the young defender from afar and the club plan to hold talks with Colwill over extending his contract at Stamford Bridge, which at present expires in 2025.

Colwill has shown less certainty about his future, having had to be reminded that he was a Chelsea player during an interview after his final game of the season with Brighton.

Istanbul ref's far-right link

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Champions League final referee over concerns about his links to a far-right Polish politician.

Szymon Marciniak, who is due to referee the match between Manchester City and Inter Milan in Istanbul on June 10, is being investigated by Uefa after it was claimed that he spoke at a conference for entrepreneurs that was organised by Sławomir Mentzen, a tax adviser and the co-chairman of the Confederation party. Mentzen is known for launching the political slogan: "We stand against Jews, gays, abortion, taxation and the European Union".

The Polish anti-racism group Never Again called on Uefa to drop Marciniak, who also refereed the World Cup final, from the Champions League final.

EXCLUSIVE TO MEMBERS
Former referee Peter Walton on why José Mourinho should be punished
thetimes.co.uk/sport

Results and scoreboards

Football

Cinch Scottish Premiership Play-off final, first leg

Partick (2) **2** **Ross Co** (0) **0**
Fitzpatrick 9, Graham 45. 7,291
Sent off: D Smith (Ross County) 17

Cricket

Vitality Blast: North group
Leicestershire Foxes v Derbyshire Falcons

Leicester (Leicestershire Foxes won toss): Derbyshire Falcons (2pts) beat Leicestershire Foxes by two runs

Derbyshire Falcons		(balls)
L M Reece lbw b Parkinson	0	(2)
H Ali b Parkinson	10	(9)
T A Wood c Budinger b Ackermann	37	(24)
W L Madsen not out	109	(61)
*J L du Plooy c Swindells b Ahmed	0	(2)
A K Dal lbw b Ahmed	1	(2)
†B D Guest not out	25	(20)
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 2)	7	
Total (5 wkts, 20 overs)	**189**	

Z J Chappell, M R J Watt, G L S Scrimshaw and Z Khan did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-1, 2-22, 3-117, 4-118, 5-120.
Bowling Parkinson 4-0-36-2; Murid 4-0-42-0; Mulder 3-0-34-0; Davis 3-0-36-0; Ahmed 4-0-20-2; Ackermann 2-0-16-1.

Leicestershire Foxes		(balls)
S G Budinger c Du Plooy b Chappell	4	(10)
N R Welch c Wood b Reece	30	(20)
R K Patel c Dal b Watt	44	(28)
*C N Ackermann not out	59	(38)
P W A Mulder c Guest b Chappell	12	(7)
A M Lilley c Dal b Scrimshaw	3	(4)
R Ahmed not out	28	(14)
Extras (b 3, w 2, nb 2)	7	
Total (5 wkts, 20 overs)	**187**	

†H J Swindells, C F Parkinson, N u Murid and W S Davis did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-14, 2-58, 3-117, 4-131, 5-138.
Bowling Watt 4-0-26-1; Khan 4-0-36-0; Chappell 4-0-39-2; Scrimshaw 4-0-44-1; Reece 2-0-14-1; Du Plooy 1-0-12-0; Wood 1-0-13-0.

Yorkshire Vikings v Lancashire Lightning

Headingley (Lancashire Lightning won toss): Yorkshire Vikings (2pts) beat Lancashire Lightning by 15 runs

Yorkshire Vikings		(balls)
A Lyth c Hartley b De Grandhomme	32	(23)
D J Malan c Salt b Livingstone	83	(50)
W A Luxton c Wood b De Grandhomme	4	(8)
M L Revis not out	24	(16)
*S M Khan c Hartley b De Grandhomme	15	(10)
J A Thompson c Buttler b Mitchell	18	(10)
D Wiese c Wood b Mitchell	2	(2)
B W M Mike not out	6	(3)
Extras (lb 4, w 3, nb 4)	11	
Total (6 wkts, 20 overs)	**195**	

†J A Tattersall, D M Bess and J A Chohan did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-88, 2-106, 3-134, 4-165, 5-187, 6-195.
Bowling Wood 4-0-55-0; Bailey 1-0-10-0; Livingstone 3-0-22-1; Mitchell 4-0-33-2; Parkinson 1-0-14-0; Wells 2-0-20-0; De Grandhomme 4-0-24-3; Hartley 1-0-13-0.

Lancashire Lightning		(balls)
P D Salt c and b Mike	16	(17)
†J C Buttler c Khan b Bess	1	(2)
S J Croft c Wiese b Thompson	22	(12)
L W P Wells c Luxton b Mike	21	(8)
D J Mitchell c Wiese b Chohan	21	(18)
*L S Livingstone c Tattersall b Wiese	15	(17)
C de Grandhomme c Tattersall b Wiese	12	(12)
T Hartley run out	39	(21)
L Wood not out	24	(10)
T E Bailey not out	3	(3)
Extras (lb 1, w 5)	6	
Total (8 wkts, 20 overs)	**180**	

M W Parkinson did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-4, 2-37, 3-61, 4-64, 5-97, 6-101, 7-149, 8-157.
Bowling Wiese 4-0-31-2; Bess 2-0-19-1; Mike 3-0-31-2; Thompson 4-0-39-1; Revis 4-0-36-0; Chohan 3-0-23-1.

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Birmingham	4	4	0	0	0	**8**	1.66
Worcestershire	3	3	0	0	0	**6**	0.86
Lancashire	5	3	2	0	0	**6**	0.49
Durham	3	2	1	0	0	**4**	1.49
Nottinghamshire	4	2	2	0	0	**4**	0.14
Yorkshire	5	2	3	0	0	**4**	-0.43
Derbyshire	4	1	3	0	0	**2**	-0.76
Northamptonshire	4	1	3	0	0	**2**	-1.06
Leicestershire	4	0	4	0	0	**0**	-1.80

South group
Sussex Sharks v Essex Eagles

Hove (Sussex Sharks won toss): Essex Eagles (2pts) beat Sussex Sharks by 25 runs

Essex Eagles		(balls)
†A M Rossington c Garton b Crocombe	3	(10)
F I N Khushi c Bopara b Mills	55	(38)
D W Lawrence c Hudson-Prentice b Mills	19	(10)
M J J Critchley c Alsop b Khan	9	(8)
P I Walter c Bopara b Khan	0	(1)
R J Das not out	31	(26)
D R Sams b Garton	8	(7)
T Westley c Carter b Khan	2	(4)
*S R Harmer not out	21	(17)
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 5, nb 2)	15	
Total (7 wkts, 20 overs)	**163**	

S Snater and S J Cook did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-17, 2-56, 3-82, 4-82, 5-108, 6-123, 7-128.
Bowling Garton 2-0-17-1; Hudson-Prentice 2-0-16-0; Crocombe 4-0-27-1; Mills 4-0-32-2; Bopara 3-0-27-0; Khan 4-0-28-3; Coles 1-0-8-0.

Sussex Sharks		(balls)
*R S Bopara c Westley b Cook	1	(3)
T G R Clark lbw b Critchley	31	(21)
T P Alsop c Cook b Harmer	4	(5)
S Khan c Khushi b Harmer	0	(1)
†M G K Burgess lbw b Harmer	0	(1)
J M Coles c Harmer b Critchley	35	(31)
G H S Garton c and b Lawrence	7	(5)
F J Hudson-Prentice c Westley b Harmer	9	(10)
O J Carter b Sams	27	(23)
T S Mills b Critchley	2	(3)
H T Crocombe not out	12	(10)
Extras (lb 3, w 5, nb 2)	10	
Total (18.4 overs)	**138**	

Fall of wickets 1-2, 2-15, 3-15, 4-15, 5-56, 6-66, 7-88, 8-105, 9-107.
Bowling Cook 3-0-24-1; Sams 3.4-0-19-1; Harmer 4-0-28-4; Snater 1-0-11-0; Critchley 4-0-28-3; Lawrence 2-0-15-1; Walter 1-0-10-0.

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Somerset	4	4	0	0	0	**8**	2.18
Surrey	4	3	1	0	0	**6**	1.54
Essex	2	2	0	0	0	**4**	0.84
Glamorgan	3	2	1	0	0	**4**	0.21
Kent	3	1	2	0	0	**2**	0.07
Sussex	3	1	2	0	0	**2**	-0.46
Gloucestershire	4	1	3	0	0	**2**	-0.97
Hampshire	3	1	2	0	0	**2**	-1.39
Middlesex	4	0	4	0	0	**0**	-1.59

Golf

Porsche European Open

Winsen, Lower Saxony: Leading first-round scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **69** S Forsstrom (Swe), M Kieffer (Ger). **70** M Helligkilde (Den), K Johannessen (Swe), J Luiten, J Smith. **71** S Ben Tarrio (Sp) J Brun (Fr), J De Bruyn (Ger), E Ferguson, F Schott (Ger), M Siem (Ger), P Waring. **72** A Bjork (Swe), N Elvira (Sp), J Guerrier (Fr), C Hill, T McKibbin, R Paratore (It), **73** M Baldwin, L Bjerregaard (Den), J Campillo (Sp), S Crocker (US), A Del Rey (Sp), P Figueiredo (Por), M Gandas (India), M Jordan, F Lacroix (Fr), R Langasque (Fr), J Lee (US), N Lemke (Swe), O Lengden (Swe), H Long (Ger), M Lorenzo-Vera (Fr), N Norgaard (Den), E Pepperell, C Sordet (Fr), C Syme, D Whitnell.

Tennis

French Open

Roland Garros, Paris: Second round (seeds in brackets): **Men: Singles** T Etcheverry (Arg) bt (18) A de Minaur (Aus) 6-3, 7-6 (7-2), 6-3; (4) C Ruud (Nor) bt G Zeppieri (It) 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5; (15) B Coric (Cro) bt P Cachin (Arg) 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; (28) G Dimitrov (Bul) bt E Ruusuvuori (Fin) 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 6-4; T Seyboth Wild (Br) bt G Pella (Arg) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; Zhang Zhizhen (China) bt T Tirante (Arg) 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, 6-4; (27) Y Nishioka (Japan) bt M Purcell (Aus) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4; D Altmaier (Ger) bt (8) J Sinner (It) 6-7 (0-7), 7-6 (9-7), 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 7-5; F Tiafoe (US) bt A Karatsev (Russ) 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2; M Giron (US) bt J Lehecka (Cz) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2; G Olivieri (Arg) bt A Vavassori (It) 7-6 (9-7), 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3); N Jarry (Chile) bt (16) T Paul (US) 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 7-5; (23) F Cerúndolo (Arg) bt Y Hanfmann (Ger) 6-3, 6-3, 6-4; A Zverev (Ger) bt A Molcan (Slova) 6-4, 6-2, 6-1; (6) H Rune (Den) wo G Monfils (Fr). **Doubles** (5) L Glasspool (GB) and H Helioevaara (Fin) bt I Ivashka (Bela) and A Popyrin (Aus) 7-6 (7-3), 7-5; (13) J Murray (GB) and M Venus (NZ) bt J Cabal (Col) and R Farah (Col) 6-1, 7-5. **Women: Singles** K Day (US) bt (20) M Keys (US) 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; (4) E Rybakina (Kaz) bt L Noskova (Cz) 6-3, 6-3; (14) B Haddad Maia (Br) bt D Shnaider (Russ) 6-2, 5-7, 6-4; S Sorribes Tormo (Sp) bt P Martic (Cro) 6-4, 6-1; A Schmiedlova (Slova) bt A Bolsova (Sp) 6-3, 6-4; E Cocciaretto (It) bt S Waltert (Switz) 6-2, 6-3; (1) I Swiatek (Pol) bt C Liu (US) 6-4, 6-0; M Andreeva (Russ) bt D Parry (Fr) 6-1, 6-2; (23) E Alexandrova (Russ) bt A-L Friedsam (Ger) 6-2, 6-0; Wang Xinyu (China) bt R Peterson (Swe) 7-6 (7-5), 6-2; B Pera (US) bt (22) D Vekic (Cro) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; (7) O Jabeur (Tun) bt O Dodin (Fr) 6-2, 6-3; O Danilovic (Ser) bt J Paolini (It) 6-2, 7-5; (6) C Gauff (US) bt J Grabher (Austria) 6-2, 6-3; L Tsurenko (Ukr) bt L Davis (US) 6-3, 1-0 ret; B Andreescu (Can) bt E Navarro (US) 6-1, 6-4.

Fixtures

Cricket

Test match: Lord's: Second day of four (11.0) England v Ireland.

Vitality Blast (6.30 unless stated): **North group: Derby** Derbyshire v Birmingham (7.0). **Chester-le-Street** Durham v Lancashire. **Northampton** Northamptonshire v Leicestershire. **Trent Bridge** Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire. **South group: Chelmsford** Essex v Hampshire (7.0). **Sophia Gardens** Glamorgan v Kent. **Bristol** Gloucestershire v Surrey (6.45). **Taunton** Somerset v Middlesex.

Rugby league

Betfred Championship Newcastle Thunder v Bradford Bulls (7.45).

A park, a pub and Rashford – an Airdrie mystery tour with McClair

Manchester United legend takes **Matt Dickinson** to the places that have shaped his life and discusses Ferguson, Ten Hag and tomorrow's FA Cup final. Photographs by Marc Aspland





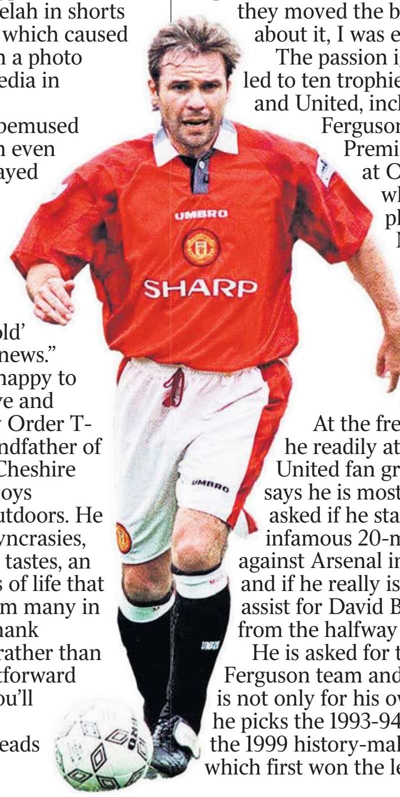
McClair back in his home town of Airdrie, where the pitches are now better than the ash-red ones on which he honed the

Brian McClair says to meet under the clock at Glasgow Central station. The rest is a mystery. "You'll need some refreshment," he says cryptically, handing over a bottle of Irn-Bru. And with that we head out on the sort of day that perhaps only McClair, of all the renowned football figures I know, could lay on.

We are off on a tour by train and foot, through countryside and council estates, via two pubs, chatting all the way about life and football; about the glory of the Sir Alex Ferguson era at Manchester United and the dismantling of it; about the scale of task facing Erik ten Hag heading into tomorrow's FA Cup final; through McClair's Scottish roots and the modern history of a club where he played his own huge part.

The first thing we have to get out of the way, before we have even left the station, is McClair's appearance — a back-packing Methuselah in shorts and walking boots — which caused so much chatter when a photo appeared on social media in January.

McClair sighs, still bemused by the reaction, which even spread overseas. "I played football for almost 20 years, won a few trophies, and I am not sure I ever featured in *Corriere dello Sport*," McClair says. "But 'Man gets old' and it's international news."



The 59-year-old is happy to confirm that he is alive and looking well in a New Order T-shirt; a contented grandfather of three with homes in Cheshire and Scotland who enjoys exploring the great outdoors. He always did have idiosyncrasies, original thoughts and tastes, an eye on the absurdities of life that differentiated him from many in the dressing room. Thank goodness for that as, rather than sit down for a straightforward interview, he says: "You'll need a ticket to Drumgelloch." And heads off to platform four.

STOP ONE

'WE WERE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY STRONGER THAN UNITED'S TREBLE TEAM'

Soon we are travelling east to Airdrie, where, according to a Scottish friend, even the rottweilers go round in pairs. It's not a regular place for a walking tour but we wander through a Scottish housing scheme to St Edward's, a Catholic primary school that sits right next to its Protestant counterpart. "There used to be a fence right down the middle," McClair says of the days when he would change his route home to avoid a kicking for being in the "wrong" uniform.

"I fell in love with football here," he says, fondly recollecting the day a teacher called the whole school into the hall, closed the curtains, turned on a projector and showed Celtic's Lisbon Lions winning the European Cup in 1967. "The colour, the way they moved the ball, everything about it, I was entranced."

The passion ignited that day led to ten trophies with Celtic and United, including Ferguson's first four Premier League titles at Old Trafford, where the players regarded McClair as the manager's favourite.

"Until Eric [Cantona] came along," he says.

At the frequent Q&As he readily attends for United fan groups, McClair says he is most commonly asked if he started the infamous 20-man brawl against Arsenal in 1990 (guilty), and if he really is claiming the assist for David Beckham's goal from the halfway line (yes).

He is asked for the best Ferguson team and insists that it is not only for his own sake that he picks the 1993-94 side ahead of the 1999 history-makers. "The team which first won the league, I think we would have enough about us to beat the Treble team. You're going to be biased and it's tricky to say skill-wise, but I think we were stronger physically and mentally." Bryan Robson, Mark Hughes, Paul Ince, Roy Keane, Cantona, Steve Bruce, Gary Pallister, McClair; that is not just a great team but a rock-hard one.

STOP TWO

WHY KANE AND AN END TO "TACKY" TAKEOVER SAGA ARE URGENTLY NEEDED

We are standing on a mini-roundabout looking at a Morrisons supermarket. Half a century ago, McClair would come to this site, then Broomfield Park with its distinctive pavilion, to watch Airdrieonians and the thrilling sight of Billy Wilson on the wing.

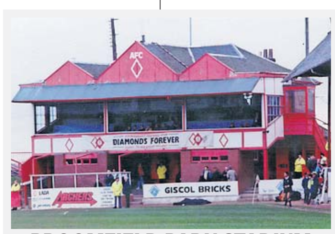
The ground would be sold, the club would go bankrupt and have to be reformed. Football was shifting from community asset to cut-throat business, which is certainly how the Glazers see United as the owners try to eke every dollar from a protracted takeover.

"They are in this terrible situation where no one at United can make a decision. While this tacky situation goes on — are they going to sell? How much for? Who will it be? — I worry it's a big thing hanging over the manager," he says.

McClair says that he leans to Sir Jim Ratcliffe's Ineos rather than more Middle Eastern sovereign wealth but, mostly, he just wants a deal done to enable more rebuilding.

Where they walked





BROOMFIELD PARK STADIUM



THE FOUR ISLES PUB

"I think Ten Hag has overachieved given everything, but they need big new signings and they definitely need a reliable goalscorer," he says. "The last time United won the league [in 2013], it was key bringing in [Robin] van Persie. Harry Kane, a fine player apart from his falling over, is the one. Look what he's got this season [30 league goals] even in a Spurs team that has played poorly." But he worries the takeover is causing delays.

STOP THREE

'I WAS FULL OF IDEAS BUT EVERYTHING SIR ALEX BUILT WAS DISMANTLED'

We are standing on Craigneuk Park, where McClair learnt to play in the shadow of long-gone brickworks; grass pitches now but red ash back then. "Only lunatics slid on that," he says.

This is where he developed eyes in the back of his head; lessons he would still be using in his 13 years as United's academy director, a job he loved. He might have continued, but it was not just Ferguson who left but also David Gill, the chief executive, who would come to the Carrington training base every week to meet the manager and make time for staff.

"When Ed [Woodward] got the job he had a different idea about the protocols. He would say hello to me but when he was there he would just walk through, not speak to people. A huge difference in style. The cleaners, kit people would speak to David, call him David. Ed had a very different way. I found it a bit like Ten Hag, trying to get a decision was nigh-on impossible. I was full of ideas not just about improving young players but the infrastructure, the buildings and training ground."

McClair wanted to develop the Cliff training base into a mini-stadium for the women's team and youth sides. Years later it is still a dilapidated building. He stayed for almost two years after Ferguson departed but laments how the culture changed.

"It's clear that everything Alex Ferguson built has been dismantled," he says. "You get people coming in and instead of thinking, 'What can I do for Manchester United?', it's, 'What can Manchester United do for me?' "



skills that made him a star for United, below left, and helped him win ten trophies



STOP FOUR

WARM FEELINGS ABOUT HIS ROLE IN RASHFORD'S RISE

Walking to his first home, on Craigson Place near the distillery where his father worked and he dreamt of running out for Celtic — "They call it visualisation now but I was doing it at five, it's called daydreaming," McClair says wryly — he reflects on different paths to the top.

He went down to Aston Villa aged 16, just as they were becoming First Division champions, but kept his options open by applying to study mathematics at Glasgow University. "You can f*** off back to Scotland then," Ron Saunders, the manager, told him. McClair started on £30 a week at Motherwell to go with his student grant.

Talent is only one part of a complicated picture. Running the United youth teams, he could feel like a social worker as much as a coach.

We talk about Marcus Rashford. "City were trying to get him at 12, 14, 16, and offering a lot more financial incentives," McClair says. "His mum, a brilliant woman, just wanted him to go to a better school.

"So we took him into the programme with a place at Ashton on Mersey School, sometimes in digs or at home. His mum could work in the bookies and all the other jobs she was doing and we were just doing our bit." He allows himself "a warm feeling" at seeing Rashford flourish.

I ask about Ravel Morrison, who had jaw-dropping talent but has since drifted around 13 clubs. McClair says it is far too simplistic to talk of a squandered career. "He's played professional football and made money out of it. That's not a failure to me when you know he's in the car park playing at the Robin Hood in Stretford a short time before someone he knows gets shot in a drive-by. There is playing regularly for United at the top of the scale but at the bottom is tragedy, being in that car park at the wrong time."

McClair, whose last job in football was as a frustrated performance director at the Scottish FA, still has strong feelings about academies packed with kids simply because clubs need large numbers to fulfil games programmes.

He wanted more small-sided games, four against four. "Studies show you have more touches, more skill development but you still get this stampede to 11 v 11. My idea was that it needs to be fun. Serious fun."

He talks of demanding a crackdown on dissent, which, I suggest, does not sound like the Ferguson regime. "It was nothing to do with him," McClair says. "In the academy we decided that we were going to stop it. Nothing said to the other dugout or the ref and linesmen. If you kick somebody, pick them up and get on with it.

"We wanted players who aren't arguing with the referee. It's a distraction: 'Don't f***ing do it. Play your game, think about your job.' These referees are sick of people shouting at them. Don't get booked and put your team in jeopardy. We felt it would help into the first team, help them in the Champions League. And we found that we were getting decisions." If only it had caught on.

STOP FIVE

HAIRDRYER TREATMENT AND AN UNSHAKEABLE BELIEF

Sitting in the Four Isles pub in Airdrie — I half-expect Begbie to walk through the door, brandishing a pool cue — McClair reminisces about the constant demands of playing under Ferguson. He laughs at how if he messed up shortly before half-time, he would be desperate for a team-mate to make an error. "Because the last mistake before the break, he'd be the first player to get chewed. The manager would go through a diminishing scale of bollockings."

Ferguson never was a tactical mastermind — deployed once at left wing, McClair waited for detailed instruction only for the manager to say "you'll f***ing sort it" — but he built an almost unshakeable belief.

"You are in the tunnel, none of this cuddling each other, thinking, 'We're going to batter you today.' You would see teams shrink. That's not arrogance. You have to earn it." One team have it in England, and it is not United.

STOP SIX

WHY HE WILL NOT BE AT WEMBLEY FOR FINAL WITH CITY

Back in Glasgow, conversation still flowing, McClair says he will not be at Wembley. He has a season ticket at Celtic but says: "I'm not a special person, 'I played for United, give me a ticket.' I'd be embarrassed given what the fans have to pay."

But he will be tuning in, gathering more thoughts for his popular *Life of Brian* podcast on which he chats about the game and life with guests as diverse as Michel Roux and musicians from his favourite bands.

"I don't want City to win the Treble," he says. "I'd left the year before in 1998 but I still feel protective of that team, that achievement, that club. But the gap between City and United, with regards to the squad, is huge."

I wonder if it reminds him of the scale of joining United in 1987 as one of Ferguson's first signings? "When the manager spoke to me he said, 'Do you want to be part of rebuilding a football club? Not a team, a club. Because I'm determined to do that.' You don't imagine then all it will become. But, yes, the more years without a title for United it'll start to feel that way."

You sense that it is not just excellent players that United need but strong characters too — those such as McClair, not afraid to challenge the orthodoxy, to shake things up.

Varane: We know how to cut supply line for Haaland

Paul Hirst

On the afternoon of Sunday, November 20 last year, a tall figure in a long dark coat stood in the corner of the only stand at the Bon Boys amateur football club in the Dutch town of Haaksbergen.

Like the rest of the 100-strong crowd, he was cheering on the team during their 3-1 win against Reutum, but he largely kept himself to himself and some of his face was covered by a baseball cap. He wanted to keep a low profile — and that was understandable because the man in question was Erik ten Hag.

The Manchester United manager, who comes from Haaksbergen and used to play for Bon Boys, was on holiday at the time because of the World Cup, but a few days earlier he had been dragged into a storm by Cristiano Ronaldo, who had criticised United in a controversial interview.

United cancelled Ronaldo's contract the day after Ten Hag visited Bon Boys. It was the latest in a long line of problems that Ten Hag has faced since his appointment.

Ten Hag has had to unite a divided squad, restore confidence and discipline, help seven new signings to settle in, kick out some dead wood, deal with the Ronaldo saga, phase out his captain Harry McGuire and compete for four trophies. He has also had to deal with what the future holds for Mason Greenwood after the United forward was charged with attempted rape, assault occasioning actual bodily harm and controlling and coercive behaviour. The charges were dropped in February. Most of this has taken place during a protracted and unresolved takeover battle.

That would be enough to make anyone long for another holiday, but, as the 53-year-old said on the pitch at Old Trafford after the win over Fulham last Sunday, there is still one game to go this season and it is a big one.

"I'm sure that these players will give everything to beat Manchester City at Wembley and bring the FA Cup back to Old Trafford," Ten Hag said during a rousing speech that went down well with the home supporters.

Regardless of whether United defeat City on Saturday, their season should be regarded as a success. Ten Hag has injected life into the careers of many of his players, his team finished third in the Premier League and won the Carabao Cup.

But if Ten Hag wants his maiden campaign to be regarded as an even bigger success, his side must win on Saturday. He will not mind too much about the margin or method of victory. It could be via a penalty shoot-out — Casemiro was among those practising penalties at Carrington yesterday.

If United win, it would give them another taste of glory and prove that they are capable of handling showpiece finals, but more importantly for the fans it would deny City the chance to emulate their neighbours' historic Treble achievement from 1999.

Achieving such a feat will not be easy, of course. Until the defeat by Brentford last Saturday, City had gone 25 matches unbeaten and they are highly motivated to write their names in the history books.

In Erling Haaland they also have the most devastating striker in Europe, but United have a plan to stop the Norway international, who has scored 52 goals in 51 matches during his first season with City.

They intend to press high, it seems, and cut the supply line to Kevin De Bruyne. It was a tactic that worked particularly well in the 2-1 win over City at Old Trafford, according to Raphaël Varane.

"Haaland has a good connection with De Bruyne," the United defender said. "That kind of pass is complicated to defend against so we [will] try to cut that connection. We will try to stop them earlier and not at the end, because sometimes it's too late. We know we must be strong as a team.

"Haaland is a very good player, but the danger from City is everywhere. They are very complete but we can beat any team. We showed that this season. We know we can beat them."

Varane thinks it would be unwise to frame the battle between the sides as a chance for United to spoil City's party. "We want to win for the club, not to stop City," the four-times Champions League winner said. "We want to develop and be on the top at Manchester United as well. When you start winning you can change the mentality and be more prepared to win more and the biggest trophies."

Gvardiol plans Leipzig exit amid interest from City

Paul Hirst

Josko Gvardiol will tell RB Leipzig that he is open to a move this summer as interest in the defender from Manchester City intensifies.

Gvardiol is expected to notify Leipzig that he would like them to consider offers for him after their final match of the season, the German Cup final against Eintracht Frankfurt, tomorrow. Christopher Nkunku and Konrad Laimer are set to join Chelsea and Bayern Munich this summer but another top name needs to leave Leipzig if they are to balance their books.

Dani Olmo, the Spain winger, had been touted for a move away but he has decided to stay and sign a new four-year contract instead. Leipzig could therefore cash in on Gvardiol, who joined them from Dinamo Zagreb in 2020. He has a release clause of €114 million (about £97 million) in his contract but it is understood that Leipzig are willing to sell him for about €100 million.

City rate Gvardiol as one of the best left-footed centre halves in Europe and could move for the 21-year-old Croat if one of their five centre backs decides to leave this summer. Aymeric Laporte, who has started only eight Premier League games since the World Cup, has been linked with a move away recently.

Another City defender, Rúben Dias, has declared himself fit for tomorrow's FA Cup final against Manchester United. Dias could not train fully for two weeks because of an injury, but said: "I'm on fire — I'm feeling good."


NIGEL SEARS JUNE-JULY 2021


SEBASTIAN SACHS DEC 2022-JUNE


TORBEN BELTZ JAN-APRIL 2022


ANDREW RICHARDSON AUG-SEPT 2021


DMITRY TURSUNOV AUG-OCT 2022

New Raducanu coach will be hard to find

Stuart Fraser
Tennis Correspondent, Paris

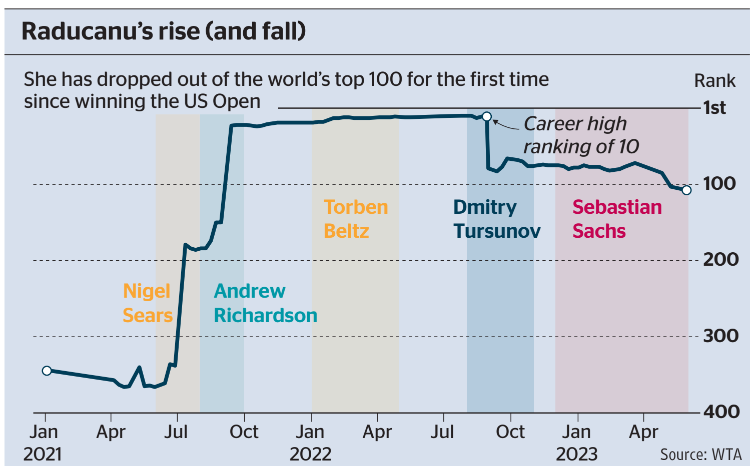
Given that Emma Raducanu has parted ways with a coach five times in the past two years, it should not have come as a surprise when the latest split with Sebastian Sachs was announced yesterday. The 20-year-old is renowned for the instability surrounding her support team.

Yet, one could not help feel a little taken aback when the news came through via a brief social media post on Raducanu's Twitter account. At every tournament she competed in this year she spoke highly of Sachs. At last it seemed as if she had found a mentor who would be by her side for the long haul, or at least a year perhaps.

So much for that. After only six months Sachs joins Nigel Sears, Andrew Richardson, Torben Beltz and Dmitry Tursunov on the growing list of Raducanu's former coaches. There is less job security than the manager's post at Chelsea football club.

"I have enjoyed Seb's coaching and working with him," Raducanu wrote. "It's unfortunate that circumstances made it unfeasible for both of us to continue and we have decided to part ways. I wish Seb all the best moving forwards."

The immediate reaction of many Raducanu supporters was to suggest that this was a natural course of action given that she is unable to train at the moment. After three operations — said to be "minor procedures" — on both hands



and her left ankle, the target for a return to the practice court is August, before a first tournament back in September.

It is understood, however, that contractual negotiations contributed to the end of their partnership. According to sources, the deal that Sachs was on until now did not offer the security that the 31-year-old German was seeking. A spokesman for Raducanu would say no more than that the split was "mutual".

It is curious that Raducanu and Sachs could not reach a resolution that would mean they held out for another two months until she is ready to play again. Given how much she maintains she enjoyed the partnership, it seems a shame that there was a reluctance to offer the reassurances that Sachs required. He should have no issue finding alternative work having previously worked with the former world No1 Victoria Azarenka and the 2020 Olympic gold medallist Belinda Bencic.

Yet another split adds to a reputation that Raducanu will find difficult to shake off now. The women's tour was always regarded as something of a coaching merry-go-round, given the chopping and changing that occurs at the end of every season. In taking this to another level, the regularity of Raducanu's personnel replacements has not gone unnoticed in the locker room.

Frankly, it is now at the stage where this is having an impact on Raducanu's ability to recruit. Some of the world's best coaches, who would have previously been tempted by the potential of this young star, will now think again as to whether they wish to become involved with such an unsteady set-up. Contractual negotiations will not be simple, as was highlighted last year by Tursunov when he said that attempts to negotiate a permanent arrangement had raised "red flags that just couldn't be ignored".

"Our trial period was over at the US Open [in August] but I stuck around, trying to see if there was going to be a way to impress the team," Tursunov told the Tennis Majors website. "I wanted to make it work. I felt like there were going to be problems later and I wanted to avoid them."

Some suggested that one of the "red flags" was the involvement of Raducanu's father Ian, though Tursunov has refused to confirm this. While there have long been raised eyebrows about the nature of Ian's guidance on tennis matters, Raducanu is surely now old enough to ultimately take control of her own career, as Andy Murray did when he came out of his teenage years.

There has been a sense of instability surrounding Raducanu ever since that memorable run as a qualifier to the US Open title in 2021. The first of a series of missteps came in failing to extend the contract of the coach who helped guide her to one of the most famous triumphs in tennis history. Recently, Richardson revealed that he had received a "brief call from her agent" to inform him that his services were no longer required.

"I wanted to carry on, and I had a plan that I wanted to put in place for Emma," Richardson told the Daily Mail last month. "This thing about, 'I wanted to go off and coach my son,' is not true, but it seems to come up all the time.

"After ten days to two weeks [after the US Open] I didn't have a contract. We were renegotiating and then I got a brief call from her agent telling me they were going to go in a different direction, and that was the end of it."

As if Raducanu needed any further upheaval, it has recently come to light that her agent, Chris Helliar, is no longer closely working with her. Max Eisenbud, the vice-president of tennis at IMG who helped Maria Sharapova make hundreds of millions, is said to be taking on a more hands-on approach of Raducanu's day-to-day needs. A key and lucrative stop in the coming weeks is an appearance at an exhibition tournament in Hangzhou, China, from June 22 to June 25, where Raducanu will take part in non-tennis playing activities.

In the meantime, Raducanu has time on her side during her recovery from surgery to find a new coach. After being hindered by too many cooks spoiling the broth over the past 21 months, a steady and stable appointment is crucial as she bids to work her way back up the rankings starting in September.

Djokovic wears metal disc on his chest to help 'rebalance' body

Stuart Fraser

Novak Djokovic's dalliance with pseudoscience took another bizarre turn at Roland Garros when the world No1 revealed he is wearing a metal disc on his chest that claims to turn heat into light.

The disc was spotted during Djokovic's second-round win on Wednesday night over Marton Fucsovics and the Serb made light of its importance after the match when quizzed on it.

"When I was a kid I liked Iron Man a lot, so I try to impersonate Iron Man," Djokovic joked. "You know, my team delivers an incredibly efficient nanotechnology to help me deliver my best on the court, so that's the biggest secret of my career. If it wasn't for that, I probably wouldn't be sitting here."

Yesterday, a company called Tao Technologies claimed ownership of the disc. "The nanotechnology in question is Taopatch SPORT and we, Tao Technologies, are the Italian company that produces them," a post on its Twitter page read.

On closer inspection, its website claims to have "layers of nanocrystals that convert heat from your body into light" and sends "therapeutic signals to your nervous system" to help your body "rebalance itself". The company even claims the patch can reduce symptoms for sufferers of multiple sclerosis.

Djokovic is no stranger to alternative medicine. Quite apart from his anti-vaccination stance, he has claimed he was diagnosed gluten intolerant after failing a strength test while holding a slice of bread.


The disc Djokovic wears is claimed to turn heat into light

The bottom quarter of the men's singles draw is wide open after Italy's Jannik Sinner became the latest seed to depart after losing the fifth-longest match in tournament history.

Sinner, seeded No8, was considered one of the outside contenders until he failed to convert two match points in the fourth set and went on to lose 6-7 (0-7), 7-6 (9-7), 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 7-5 to the world No79 Daniel Altmaier, of Germany.

ANDREW COULDRIDGE/REUTERS



Crawley, left, and the more composed Duckett dealt with the early overs in some style as Ireland's attack felt the heat

Opening pair's blend helps England to set perfect tempo

Simon Wilde



It was easy, of course, to insert the riders, to add the asterisks. It is only Ireland, and the Irish are without Josh Little, their liveliest and best fast bowler, who would surely have given the England openers more of a hurry-up. Australia will be tougher for sure. But you can only deal with what is in front of you, and Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett dealt with the early overs of the England innings in some style, if not quite flawlessly.

Crawley's 56 from 44 balls was a typical contribution. He exhibited some luscious strokeplay as well as some ugly miscues, which could have brought his downfall on another less fortuitous evening. In the space of two overs he inside-edged three drives to the fine-leg boundary. But while he was at the crease, the bowlers increasingly felt the heat. They might have started with four slips, but finished with fields of Brownian motion.

Duckett was more efficient and more in control. He lashed balls to both sides of the wicket but was content to bide his time a little more. Duckett's fifty required 53 balls — still fast by most standards, if not necessarily those of this extraordinarily impatient batting line-up — whereas Crawley, whose morale was no doubt boosted by the sharp catch he held at second slip, got to his in just 39 balls.

The difference in tempo is probably an indicator of one of several contrasts between two complementary batsmen; Crawley the right-hander who stands 6ft 5in, Duckett the lefty at 5ft 9in. Duckett trusts his defensive game more and might therefore hope to go on to big scores more often, while Crawley perhaps fears that his game will let him down sooner rather than later, so best to get on with things while he can.

Brendon McCullum, England's head coach, spoke well of this facet of Crawley's game in the lead-up to this Test during a Sky Sports podcast in which he compared Crawley's methods to his own as a Test batsman for New Zealand between 2004 and 2016.

Asked whether he was asking Crawley to "chase the moments" in the way that he had, McCullum said: "That is exactly what we are asking Zak to do and what Zak wants to do … I see some similarities in us as players, going back to that time when I was trying to conform, [dealing] with fear of failing and trying to become a consistent player. I saw what it did to my game. My offensive game was a lot better than my defence.

"Zak has a much stronger offensive game and we believe in his ability to put opposition teams under pressure. He's going to nick out for nought playing a big, extravagant shot, he's going to miss one trying to whip it through the leg side. But what we look at is the impact you can make on games. I think back to Pakistan, that first innings [in Rawalpindi] when he made 14 off the first over, and a couple of low run chases last summer … little things like that make a significant impact. You'll [sometimes] have your day out — your double hundred off 180 balls or 100 off 120 that wins the match. That is what we believe. Ultimately you have to have conviction with what you do — total backing of our players."

McCullum also said in a press conference earlier in the week that he saw no reason why Crawley would not open against Australia at Edgbaston on June 16, and after this performance — even with the provisos we can insert — that will surely be the case now. Had Crawley fallen cheaply, the England camp would have faced more questions about their errant opener, even if they were still going to stick to their guns.

A score of 50-odd is not as conclusive a start as it might have been — Crawley looked furious as he trudged off after Fionn Hand took a juggling return catch — but this session of play has made things easier for everyone.

Most important in England's eyes, Crawley and Duckett gave the innings the explosive start they wanted, the sort that rocks the opposition back on their heels, and creates greater scoring opportunities for those who follow.

Focus on averages and the numbers are largely underwhelming. Crawley's Test average now stands at 28.06, which beyond question is modest. Duckett, who in his first Test on home soil was unbeaten on 60 at stumps, sells his wicket in Tests at 42.37, which is more respectable but not outstanding.

However, as an opening partnership they are building a record that is unmatched — 593 runs in 11 starts at a rate of 5.85 runs per over. No other first-wicket pair in Test history have scored at faster than five runs an over, though several pairings involving Virender Sehwag came close.

Here they brought up England's 100 in 15.2 overs, the second fastest century start for England in Tests behind a record they set in Rawalpindi.

As for Duckett, no one who has opened in Tests at least three times, and for whom the data exists, has ever scored faster than his 89.06 runs per 100 balls.

Seize the initiative and keep it — that is England's philosophy. And the way their openers batted on this sun-drenched evening illustrated that approach to perfection.

Quick out the blocks

Fastest-scoring opening pairs in Tests since turn of century

	Runs	Average	Run rate
Z Crawley and B Duckett	593	53.9	5.85
R Dravid and V Sehwag	514	102.8	4.98
V Sehwag and M Vijay	842	64.76	4.70
G Gambhir and V Sehwag	4,412	52.52	4.62
S Dhawan and KL Rahul	749	49.93	4.45
J Burns and D Warner	1,365	50.55	4.13
W Jaffer and V Sehwag	1,031	36.82	4.07

Minimum 500 runs

Source: Cricinfo

Rising star Green can be Australia's Stokes, warns Vettori

Elgan Alderman

There are concerns that Ben Stokes's lack of bowling fitness threatens the balance of England's Test XI, but the arrival of Cameron Green puts Australia's on an even keel. Unlike Stokes, Green has been at the IPL *and* playing cricket, and Daniel Vettori has no fears about the Australia all-rounder coming into the Test squad from the franchise competition.

Australia have gathered in Beckenham before the World Test Championship final against India, starting at the Oval next Wednesday, with five Ashes Tests following. The 17-man squad have come together from stints in the IPL, County Championship or from a period of rest.

Preparations began with cricket and golf in Merseyside, and Green joined up with the squad on Wednesday after his maiden IPL campaign. The 23-year-old all-rounder played in all 16 matches for Mumbai Indians, scoring 452 runs with one century and bowling 38 overs of seam.

Stokes played two matches in the IPL and there are concerns over his bowling ability (doubts which he inevitably has censured). His status as England captain, inspiring them to ten wins in 12 Tests, means he not only has three strings to his bow but he is also in charge of arrow and quiver.

"We know how much he brings to the table as an all-rounder," Vettori, the Australia assistant coach, said. "It's like Cameron Green for us offering that balance and the ability to come in, be an aggressive weapon, along with his batting, which has been exceptional, so I think any team wants the all-rounder up and running because it makes everything else run so smoothly."



Green brings balance to Australia's line-up

Green, a tall seam bowler with a first-class batting average of 49, made his Australia debut in December 2020 at home to India and has played in 20 Tests, yielding 941 runs at 37.64 and 23 wickets at 34.30. In his past three appearances, he has taken a maiden five-for, at home to South Africa in the Boxing Day Test, and scored a maiden hundred in Ahmedabad, from No 6. A second Ashes series, his first in England, will be a compelling staging post on his assumed rise to greatness.

Australia were flush with all-rounders after the Second World War: Keith Miller and Richie Benaud were all-time greats. Since then, England have gone through eras defined by the man who balanced the XI: Tony Greig, Ian Botham, Andrew Flintoff, now Stokes. Even in the fabulous team of the 1990s and 2000s, a great all-rounder was beyond Australia (not that they needed one). Green could revive the role, though he has a way to go.

The days of England players warming up in county cricket and Australia players touring the country for practice are gone for now. The visitors' only match practice will be the Test against India at the Oval, after England's four-day match against Ireland at Lord's.

Most of England's Ashes squad have been playing county cricket, while Harry Brook, Joe Root, Stokes and Mark Wood have been at the IPL. Brook was the only one to play more than four games, and more than half of his 190 runs came in one innings, but Root said that being with Rajasthan Royals was better preparation than playing for Yorkshire.

Marcus Harris, Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith have played in the championship. Smith's three-match stint with Sussex brought him 122 runs, including a dismissal by Josh Tongue, England's newest Test debutant. Green was No 11 in the IPL runscoring charts, second to David Warner among Australia players, and Mitchell Marsh and Josh Hazlewood were also in India. Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon rested.

"We just have to look through it in a different lens that any cricket is preparation now," Vettori said. "Obviously [Cameron's] done work in the background, making sure that his bowling loads are up and that he's ready for Test cricket. Now we look at it as if you're involved in high-intensity, high-class cricket, we're happy with that because it means that you're playing cricket.

Broad is at his dangerous best

Mike Atherton
Chief Cricket Correspondent

England v Ireland

Lord's (first day of four; England won toss): England, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 20 runs behind

Until now, Stuart Broad's summer had been spent mainly winding up Australians. He had cheekily claimed that the last Ashes was null and void in his view, given the Covid restrictions, a remark that had Mitchell Starc wriggling on the end of the hook. Wickets had been sporadic for Nottinghamshire. But Lord's and the opening Test of the summer gave him what he craves, namely a crowd and an occasion. His best performance of the season was a given.

He may also feel that he has a point to prove, and, like Jonny Bairstow, he is never more dangerous than when in that mood. With James Anderson and Ollie Robinson wrapped in cotton wool, and Mark Wood's pace a likely option at Edgbaston, Broad's position in the team for the first Ashes Test is uncertain. His five wickets here, three of them in a fine opening burst, was a gentle reminder, if one was needed, of his enduring skill and competitiveness.

Anderson's absence was a contributory factor to his success. It meant that Broad was expected to lead the attack as the senior bowler, and it also allowed him choice of ends for once. Had Anderson been playing, Broad would have had to chug in dutifully from the Nursery End. Given the choice, he took up residence instead at the Pavilion End, from where all the great "line" bowlers have operated and from where they are a far more dangerous proposition because of the slope. He took four of his five wickets from that end.

This was his 20th five-wicket haul in Tests, and his first at Lord's for a decade. It paved the way for a session of carnage in the evening sunshine, as England's openers bit a large chunk out of Ireland's feeble first-innings total of 172, with a three-figure opening partnership at a rapid rate. Both Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley made half-centuries, although Crawley missed a golden opportunity to make a significant score against an attack that looks well below standard when he drilled a return catch to give Fionn Hand a maiden Test wicket half an hour before the close of play.

Duckett, in his first home Test, offered up no such generosity and, like the rest of England's line-up, ought to be eyeing the second day hungrily. He is a really compact player and benefits from Crawley's height at the other end. While the bowlers may look to pull back their length, because of Crawley's reach, Duckett sits back in his crease and picks them off square of the wicket. His cutting was clinical and opportunity knocks.

When Broad wasn't making the ball talk from the Pavilion End — seam movement in the morning, with more swing as it warmed up through the day — Josh Tongue was given a decent opportunity from there as well. Having received his cap — number 711 — from Anderson in the morning, Tongue bowled at lively pace, nudging over the 90mph mark occasionally, and looked strong. He was asked — too frequently — to test out the middle of the pitch which did not necessarily increase his chances of success, though, and is still waiting for his first wicket.

Broad had been delayed getting to the ground along with the rest of the team by the Just Stop Oil protesters, who delayed the bus outside the team hotel in Kensington, but was quickly into his work when play began. Memories of Ireland's batting here four years ago, the way his team had chased targets successfully in England last summer, and the green tinge to the pitch encouraged Stokes to bowl first and Ireland were three down before the early morning chill had disappeared.

Broad's opening spell of five overs brought him the wickets of Peter Moor, Andy Balbirnie and Harry Tector: Moor tried to work a straight ball to leg and missed; Balbirnie was expertly taken at second slip by Crawley, a low diving catch to the left, and Tector, Ireland's best player, advanced down the pitch and worked a ball into a leg trap, where Matthew Potts made a difficult catch look easy. Threatening both edges of the bat was Broad's modus operandi throughout the day.

No bowler in Test cricket has taken three hat-tricks. Broad has two, and thought he was sniffing a chance for a third when Paul Stirling was given out first ball to him leg-before. Memories of Ireland's 38 all out four years ago on this ground surfaced momentarily then — Ireland would have been 19 for four at that stage — but Stirling survived a review and Broad was forced to take his sweater, no further damage done.

Tongue's first two overs produced maidens, and no obvious sign of nerves. Stokes was fielding without his knee brace on — and therefore was not intending to bowl — and so there was an early opportunity for Jack Leach after Pott's first spell, which included half-a-dozen play and misses. Stirling, a dasher by nature and inclination, greeted Leach's first ball with a hard-swept boundary, but, as is his wont, Stokes kept the fielders up, invitingly. Eventually, Stirling swept once too often, gloving a simple catch to Bairstow.

Bairstow's wicketkeeping was inconspicuous — therefore good — on his return and England's out cricket was sharp enough, with Joe Root making the only mistake of the day when he spilled a hard catch in the afternoon, as Andy McBrine drove at Leach. The spinner proved to be Stokes's next most potent weapon, winning a leg-before decision against Lorcan Tucker, sweeping again, in the afternoon, and then beating Curtis Campher on the charge late in the day. The numbers don't suggest that Leach has grown in stature under Stokes, but numbers can be deceptive.

Ireland's early resistance came from James McCollum, who approached matters in a quaintly old-fashioned manner — which is to say with some due care and attention — but he fell to the new-fangled Broad outswinger four overs after lunch. Then it was just a matter of when Broad's fifth wicket would come; a change of ends, and an airy drive from Mark Adair, completed the task. The crowd was quick to acknowledge the feat; Broad was equally quick to accept their acclaim, offering a royal wave to the grandstand. The first day of the Test summer belonged to him and, competitor that he is, it may not be the last.



Broad enjoyed having choice of ends for once

Scoreboard

IRELAND First Innings	R
J A McCollum c Root b Broad *Outside edge to first slip*	36
P J Moor lbw b Broad *Full around off and nipping in*	10
***A Balbirnie** c Crawley b Broad *Outside edge to second slip*	0
H T Tector c Potts b Broad *One on the body, flicked to leg slip*	0
P R Stirling c Bairstow b Leach *Extra bounce, gloved behind*	30
†L J Tucker lbw b Leach *Missed sweep, hit on the front pad*	18
C Campher b Leach *Heaved across, missed it completely*	33
A R McBrine c Bairstow b Potts *Angled in, nipped away, outside edge*	19
M R Adair b Broad *Inswinger pitching outside off*	14
F Hand c Bairstow b Potts *Length ball, nipped back, inside edge*	1
G I Hume not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 9, nb 1)	11
TOTAL (56.2 overs)	172

Fall of wickets 1-15, 2-19, 3-19, 4-64, 5-98, 6-104, 7-142, 8-169, 9-172.
Bowling Broad 17-5-51-5; Potts 12.2-4-36-2; Tongue 13-4-40-0; Leach 14-2-35-3.

ENGLAND First Innings	R
Z Crawley c and b Hand *Chipped straight back to bowler*	56
B M Duckett not out	60
O J D Pope not out	29
Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 1, nb 1)	7
TOTAL (1 wkt, 25 overs)	152

J E Root, H C Brook, *B A Stokes, †J M Bairstow, S C J Broad, M J Potts, J C Tongue and M J Leach to bat.
Fall of wicket 1-109.
Bowling Adair 7-1-59-0; Hume 8-0-29-0; Hand 7-1-42-1; Campher 3-0-17-0.

Umpires A T Holdstock (South Africa) and P Wilson (Australia). **TV umpire** H D P K Dharmasena (Sri Lanka). **Reserve umpire** D J Millns (England). **Match referee** R B Richardson (West Indies).

England's new enforcer

Of the three seamers, debutant Josh Tongue bowled comfortably the shortest length

	Broad	Potts	Tongue
Yorker	0%	0%	0%
Half-volley	2.5%	4.5%	2.8%
Length ball	76.3%	80.3%	26.4%
Back of a length	18.7%	15.2%	44.4%
Short	2.5%	0%	26.4%

Figures up to the tea break. Source: Opta



Brilliant Broad at Lord's

Bowlers with at least 100 wickets at a single Test venue

Bowler	Venue	Wickets	Average	Five-wicket hauls
M Muralitharan (SL)	Colombo	166	20.7	14
J Anderson (Eng)	Lord's	117	24.6	7
Muralitharan	Kandy	117	16.0	11
Muralitharan	Galle	111	18.5	11
Stuart Broad (Eng)	Lord's	107	27.1	3
R Herath (SL)	Galle	102	24.9	9

Sources: Opta and Cricinfo

'I'm focusing on rhythm,

CONTINUED FROM BACK

great day," Broad said. "When you win the toss and bowl, you want three or four wickets in the first session and your aim is to try to bowl the team out in a day, so to have done that was a big tick for our bowling attack.

"Then the way the three guys played this evening was exactly the mindset that Baz [Brendon McCullum] and Stokesy [Ben Stokes] want. It was positive, it was aggressive, it put the bowlers under pressure and we'll hopefully see a bit more of that [today]."

Broad's haul means he is only 19 Test wickets away from joining James Anderson in the 600-wicket club, a milestone he could achieve during this summer's Ashes, but he insists that is not at the forefront of his mind.

"I think Jimmy and I are both the same in our mindset: that it will be nice in 20 years with a glass of red to talk about those sort of things, but actually when you're living and breathing it, you don't focus on that at all," he said.

"My mindset for the summer is to be fit, fresh and in good rhythm whenever called upon, whether that is the first Test, the second Test or the fifth Test. Today was a great start because I actually felt probably in the best rhythm that I have this summer. I bowled nicely for Nottinghamshire in the first game and at Lord's, but didn't bowl great

when he has a point to prove



ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES

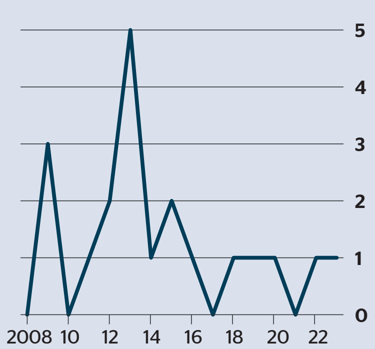
Broad bowls to Ireland opener Moor during a fine first spell

Leading Test wicket-takers for England at Lord's – as Broad ties Anderson for most caps at the venue

	Tests	Wickets
J Anderson (2003-22)	27	117
S Broad (2008-23)	27*	107
I Botham (1978-92)	15	69
F Trueman (1952-65)	12	63
B Willis (1973-84)	9	47
B Statham (1951-61)	9	45
H Verity (1933-39)	7	42
G Swann (2009-13)	10	40

*match in progress

His five-wicket hauls in Tests each year



His five-wicket hauls in Tests by venue

Home	
Headingley	3
Lord's	3
Trent Bridge	2
Chester-le-Street	2
Old Trafford	2
The Oval	1
Edgbaston	1
Abroad	
Kingston	1
Wellington	1
Brisbane	1
Johannesburg	1
Christchurch	1
Sydney	1

not joining Jimmy in 600-wicket club'

against Lancashire and then found a good strike pattern against Essex. To come into the first game of the international summer and to really hit my straps and feel like I was on the money is a great start for me."

The Worcestershire seamer Josh Tongue made an admirable debut with the ball, getting through 13 overs. Although the 25-year-old went wicketless, Broad said he had given a good account of himself.

"He bowled really well," Broad said. "He was unlucky not to pick up some wickets. He got great bounce and has a slightly different action to pick up, which makes it feel like he hurries the batters. He settled in really well, didn't show any major nerves, looked like he really enjoyed the occasion and had really good pace."

Tongue's addition to England's fast-bowling ranks is vital because it is "unrealistic" that any bowler is going to play in all six summer Tests, Broad believes. "We are going to need a few of us to be right and ready," he said. "It's great when you look around the dressing room and see the quality that is there, and you only have to look at the bowlers who aren't playing this week to know that we've got a lot of strength in depth."

To protect his sore knee, Stokes will almost certainly not bowl in this match, leaving England with a three-man seam attack and the off spinner Jack Leach. "It does change the dynamic of the team a bit, your spells come around quicker, you've got to front up and bowl more overs in a day," Broad said. "But I based the first half of my career doing that with Jimmy, [Tim] Bresnan and [Chris] Tremlett, plus Swanny [Graeme Swann] — we had three seamers and a spinner and we cracked on."

England v Ireland
Day two
Lord's, from 11am
Live on Sky Sports Main Event

Early introduction shows confidence Stokes has in Leach

Steve James



It was a morning for the seamers: cool, cloudy and with just enough in the pitch. As Ben Stokes, the England captain, said when winning the toss, "pretty good conditions to bowl in".

Indeed they were, and Stuart Broad has never been one to eschew such an opportunity willingly. Leading the attack and therefore using the prized Pavilion End, from which the famous old slope can cause so many problems for the right-handed batsmen, the very best bowlers, such as Broad, hold a line outside off stump. Some balls dart back towards the stumps and others just hold their line as a hungry slip cordon waits.

Broad's legs were pumping powerfully high, which is always a good sign, and sure enough three wickets were his in no time, and so very nearly a fourth, except that the leg-before decision against Paul Stirling was overturned on review.

Stokes was at his creative and attacking best, posting four slips and a leg slip to begin with, and while that leg slip (Matthew Potts) did spend some time grazing elsewhere, when Harry Tector arrived at the crease he soon returned to his post, and Tector, already standing on off stump, then advancing down the pitch even more to the off side, dutifully tickled one straight to him.

When a plan comes together and all that. But what did we spy now? At backward point Jack Leach was warming up. A left-arm spinner in these conditions? Not even Stokes would be that left field, would he? Perhaps Leach was just keeping warm, as opposed to preparing to bowl. But, no, when the 11th over had been completed, Leach went to the Nursery End and handed umpire Adrian Holdstock his cap. He was on. In the first hour of a Test at Lord's when the seamers were causing havoc.

As a vote of confidence it was some tick for the 31-year-old. This was the earliest Leach has ever been called upon in the first innings of a home Test, narrowly beating the 13th over at Leeds against New Zealand last year.

For now we can imagine that the conversation between bowler and captain was going something like this: "Deep square leg?" from Leach, to which Stokes will have replied, "Nope!" Last year Leach had revealed how some similar discourse had taken place. "I say, 'What about mid-on back?' and he says, 'Nope!' It's really attacking."

It certainly is attacking, particularly when someone like Stirling is on strike. He is dangerous, and unafraid to play his strokes, and so it was little surprise that, with Josh Tongue at short backward square leg rather than back on the fence, he attempted the sweep shot, just about clearing Tongue for four.

Not quite the plan coming together there then, but the intent was apparent, and the deal was to be sealed later when Stirling attempted another sweep and was caught by the wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow off a glove.

Even when Stirling had danced down the pitch and drove Leach hard through mid-off for four, Stokes and Leach held their nerve, keeping mid-off and mid-on up, and sure enough the next ball Stirling attempted an even bigger hit, the ball sliding harmlessly off the inside edge for no run. Stokes's response? He brought in his deep mid-wicket from the boundary to encourage something even more agricultural. Stirling declined the offer with a solid forward defensive, but this was the cat-and-mouse of spinner and captain against batsman at its most exciting and subtle.

We even saw the occasional placing of a silly point to the right-hander, which is so rare these days because, wary of DRS and its banishing of the once-so-protective large forward stride, batsmen generally play with bat in front of pad rather than with bat and pad together as in days of yore. It was easy to squeeze the ball out to silly point then. Now, even to a left-arm spinner, the ball is more likely to go to leg slip off inside edge.

Leach's pre-prandial spell was six overs for 15 runs with that one wicket, and after lunch he opened the bowling with Broad, soon snaring Lorcan Tucker, another tempted by the untenanted deep square-leg boundary, leg-before sweeping, with a review just affirming the original out decision, even though Tucker was a long way down the pitch.

Later, Leach had one over at the Pavilion End before returning to the Nursery End to tempt Curtis Campher, attracted by mid-off and mid-on being up, down the pitch with a slower delivery. He was bowled heaving.

Leach finished with three for 35 from his 14 overs. It might have been four wickets had Joe Root held a difficult chance at slip off the left-handed Andy McBrine. But that represents a fine day's work from a spinner on the first day of a Test.

What's more, Leach was clearly enjoying himself, a man comfortable both in his own skin and in his role for the team. Stokes has had that effect upon him, even if the statistics do not truly bear that out: 79 wickets at 31.88, with an economy rate of 2.86 and strike rate of 66.8 before "Bazball", and now 44 wickets at 37.04, with an economy of 3.29 and strike rate of 67.5 since Stokes took over. But Leach feels an integral part of this team and will play in the Ashes, regardless of the battle for the seam-bowling places.

Australia will go after him, as Travis Head did so savagely in Brisbane last time, but Stokes will be backing Leach throughout. And he will certainly have some plans. Aggressive ones.



Leach was brought on in the first hour

Sport

Raducanu coach split

British star searching for her sixth mentor in two years

Tennis, page 64



McClair back to his roots

Matt Dickinson follows United legend around his home haunts

Interview, pages 62-63



CRAIG THOMAS/NEWS IMAGES



Five-star Broad leads the charge

Elizabeth Ammon

Stuart Broad hailed the "perfect start to a big summer" as England's "Bazball" revolution continued with a dominant performance against Ireland on the opening day of their Ashes warm-up at Lord's.

Broad took his 20th Test-match five-wicket haul as England bowled out the visiting team for 172 in 56.2 overs. Some typically aggressive batting, at a rate of more than six runs an over and featuring half-centuries by Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett, helped England to reach 152 for one at the close, a deficit of only 20. "It was a

Continued on page 66

Broad took five for 51 as Ireland were dismissed for 172 on the first day at Lord's

Referee Taylor attacked by fans at airport

Paul Hirst

Anthony Taylor needed police protection after the English referee and his family were accosted by angry Roma fans at Budapest airport yesterday in the wake of the Europa League final on Wednesday. Video footage on social media showed missiles, including a chair, being hurled towards Taylor, 44.

Taylor was criticised by José Mourinho, the Roma head coach, after his side lost to Sevilla in a penalty shootout. Video footage on social media later emerged showing Mourinho gesticulating at the English referee, swearing and calling him "a f***ing disgrace" in the car park of the Puskas Arena.

Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL), the body in charge of elite referees, said in a statement: "We are aware of videos circulating on social media showing Anthony Taylor and his family being harassed and abused at Budapest Airport. We are appalled at the unjustified and abhorrent abuse. We will continue to provide our full support to Anthony and his family."

Uefa is waiting for Taylor's report before deciding whether to take any action against Mourinho. The governing body, meanwhile, will announce today whether it intends to drop the

Continued on page 61

Fiorentina working on tactical fouls to stop West Ham

James Gheerbrant Florence

Fiorentina's head coach has made the extraordinary admission that his team are prepared to employ tactical fouling against West Ham United in the Europa Conference League final on Wednesday night.

Speaking about the clash of tactical styles with David Moyes's side, Vincenzo Italiano said: "They are a team that defends in front of the box and tries to go on the counter. I expect this kind of attitude from our opponents, and we will try to not give them dangerous balls, and to work on tactical fouls, preventive tackles to avoid counterattacks: these are the countermeasures to play against this kind of attitude."

The use of tactical fouling — committing deliberate fouls to stop your opponent breaking quickly against a disorganised defence — is commonplace, but for a coach to openly prescribe the tactic in advance of a match is unusual. West Ham will meet Fiorentina in Prague, with both teams attempting to win their first significant European trophy in more than 50 years.

Italiano's frank admission comes after Wednesday night's Europa League final between Roma and Sevilla, which featured 14 yellow cards — including for those on the bench — and was marred by persistent breaks in play. It puts more pressure on the 47-year-old Spanish referee Carlos del Cerro Grande, who will be officiating his first European final.

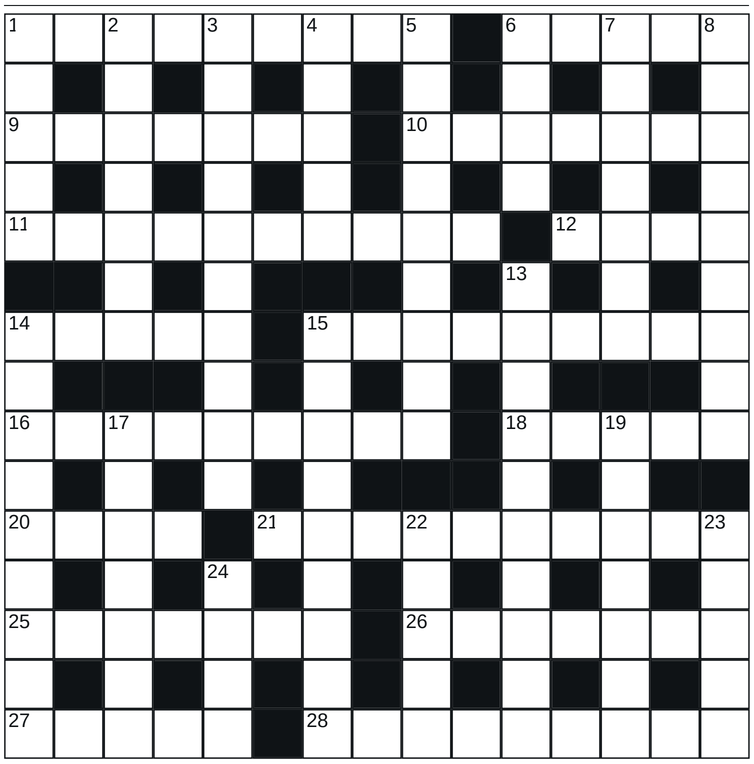
Italiano, who has also taken Fiorentina to this season's Coppa Italia final, was full of respect for West Ham, but warned that he had identified "weak spots" that he hoped his team would be able to probe.

"We've seen many matches. We've seen their path in the Conference League and it's one of the best teams in the competition," he said. "They have very [high] quality players, they are very physical, very well structured, at free kicks they are very dangerous, and they have a very expert coach.

"We know their qualities. We hope we have found some weak spots and [can] exploit them in the final. We need to be very respectful and very cautious. We need to play a very cautious game,

Continued on page 61

Times Crossword 28,619



ACROSS

1 Empty fajita, very hot on the outside, in the main (9)
6 Might one be a surrogate father? (5)
9 Company that delivers, bagging credit increases (7)
10 Casual worker missing work to begin with (7)
11 Live entertainment not primarily what a crossword may provide? (10)
12 Booty from large house picked up (4)
14 Not firm figure in French radio, perhaps (5)
15 Alcohol and some cocaine — last bit of crack (9)
16 European arriving at chamber for event (4,5)
18 One getting into flash car? (5)
20 Man with issue twice a year (4)
21 Group receiving direction before start of Long March (10)
25 Hide eastern articles in both hands (7)
26 The spirit of Henry IV, say (7)
27 Some perfumier he interested in eau de Cologne locally (5)
28 Henry quits Asian bank, perhaps he goes in last (9)

DOWN

1 Short, stout person rowing up to the half-way mark (5)
2 Periodically cheers up, given what you may be reading now (2,5)
3 Appeal after copper stops working case (10)
4 Briefly with or without Mary? (2,3)
5 Venue for sports fan getting snack food (9)
6 Story including Fitzgerald's opening sentence (4)
7 Bread and a little butter, with spicy drink going around (7)
8 Where hammer and anvil are extremely tough taken from Tolkien's realm (6,3)
13 Kind of green plan to recycle (10)
14 Not in country club with tree outside for all to see (9)
15 Privileged person with clout drunkenly punching twit (9)
17 Mathematician climbing mountain in pretty fabric (7)
19 Perverse creature who might pinch twirling girl attending many parties (7)
22 Call e.g. ChatGPT capital (5)
23 Day with stormy rain one's spent in Algeria, say (5)
24 Character from Jerusalem I name in support of peace! (4)

Yesterday's solution 28,618



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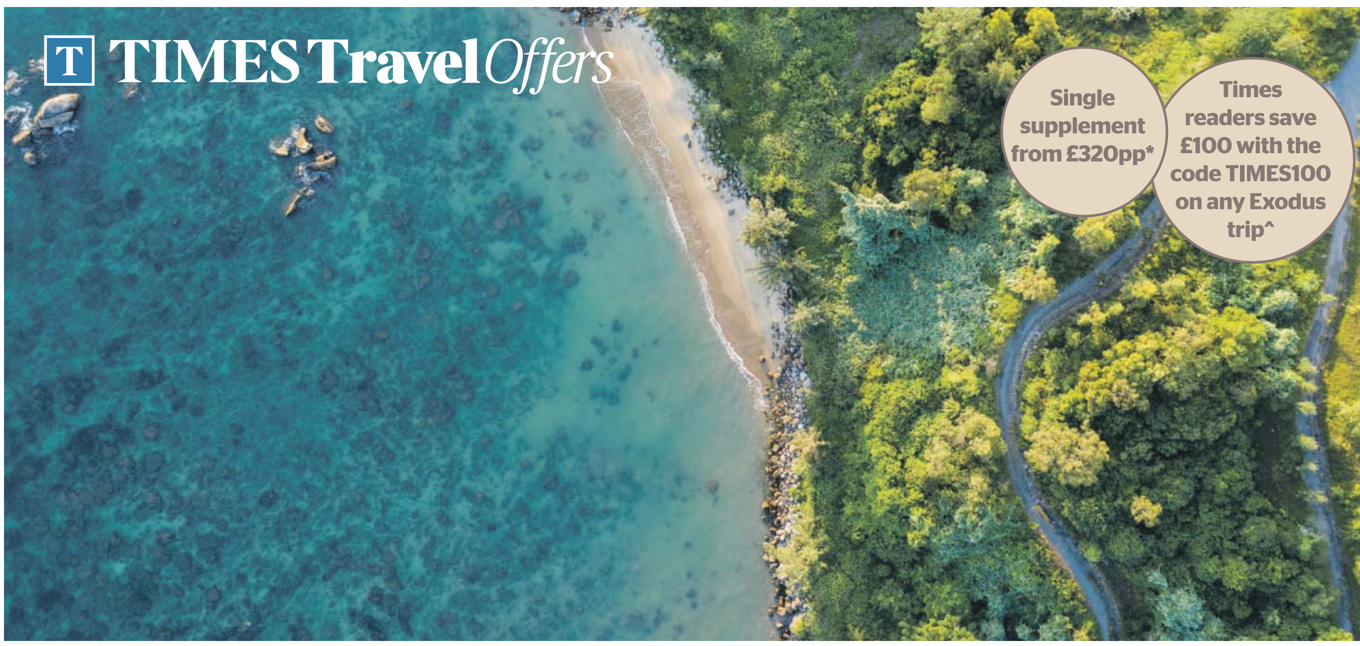
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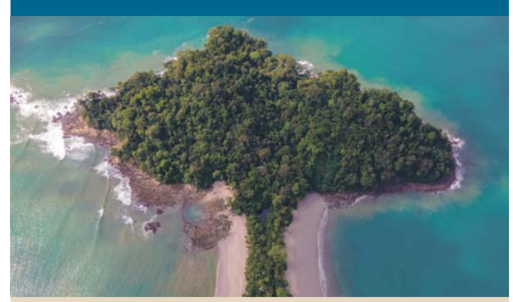
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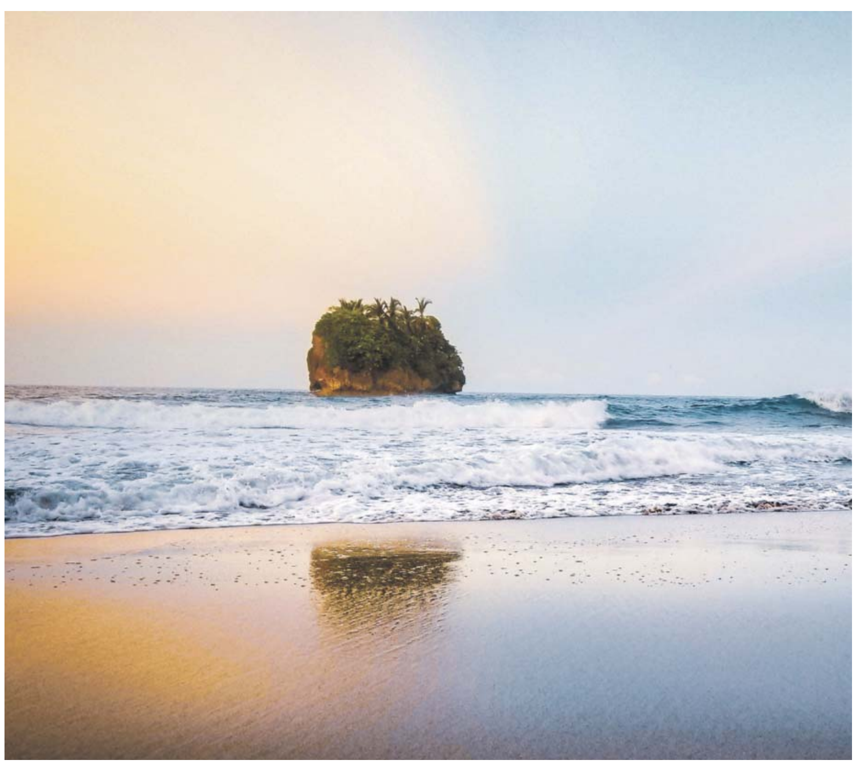
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Pick of the postcodes

THE TOP TEN BUYERS' MARKETS
pages 6-7



Home of the week

The Old Priory lives up to its name — the house is on the site of one of England's largest Roman villas. By Victoria Brzezinski

For anyone hankering after history on their doorstep — quite literally — the Old Priory is as good as it gets. The grade I listed home in North Woodchester, a 40-minute walk into Stroud in the Cotswolds, is situated on the site of one of the largest Roman villas in England.

This 4th-century 65-room villa extended over more than two acres and was excavated in the 1790s by Samuel Lysons, a Gloucestershire archaeologist. Its most famous feature is its intricate Orpheus mosaic, the second largest of its kind in Europe, dating from around AD325 and depicting the bard charming all forms of life with his lyre.

"What is often not fully appreciated is that the great pavement belongs to a villa that is in many respects comparable with Fishbourne [the largest Roman home in Britain]," Giles Clarke wrote in the 1982 edition of the journal Britannia. "At the head of the inner courtyard stood the room with the great pavement and the rest of the villa extended south into Villa Field and west into the garden of the Priory House," he continued.

The remains of the Roman pavement were last exposed in 1973, but whoever buys the Old Priory may be able to uncover it once more — with the necessary investment, of course.

"To feel that your feet are where Romans were is quite amazing. It gives me a tingle up my spine," says Lindsay Cuthill, the founder of Blue Book, the agency selling the Old Priory.

Elements of the Roman villa were used in and can be seen within the fabric of the existing property, which is set in 85 acres of grounds including a kitchen garden, an orchard, woodland walks, a lake and a Victorian spring water garden. "Any minute now they'll have enough asparagus to feed an army," Cuthill says.

The present house has origins in the 16th century, when it was built for the Duke of Norfolk, but much of what stands today dates from the 19th century, when the six-bedroom house was remodelled, including the addition of a tower hiding a "secret" top-floor room.

For the past 17 years the Old Priory has been home to a wine merchant and his wife. Now that their daughter has grown up the couple are downsizing. "We have had so much fun restoring our historic house. Preserving the past and securing the future is very satisfying," he says.

Living space extends to 9,547 sq ft and is arranged in an H-shape, featuring a galleried vaulted reception hall and an abundance of period character with a Tudor panel in the kitchen/family room. Five reception rooms include a library and study, while ancillary spaces range from a professional kitchen to boot rooms, a pantry and a laundry room.

Outside, there's an infinity pool beside a Romanesque pool house with a 32ft entertaining room ideal for summer parties. Its windows back, opening up the sides. A pool and tennis court "offer the complete package", Cuthill says. Outbuildings include a two-bedroom lodge, a three-bedroom cottage and a stable block, which subject to planning permission could make a splendid home office space or business headquarters.

£7.85 million, bluebookagency.com; savills.com

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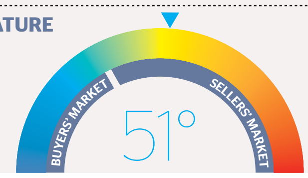
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▼ 29% Decrease in buyer demand in the past year

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TAKING THE TEMPERATURE
SELLERS' MARKET
The hotter the market, the quicker and easier it should be to sell a home



Source: Propcast and Rightmove

What £1 million buys you in . . .

Compiled by Victoria Brzezinski @vbrzezin

Cornwall

If you fancy a fixer-upper, Little Trewithen Farm is the northern Cornish dream, tucked away near the village of St Wenn. The 28.4-acre plot comprises a secluded two-bedroom cottage and an unconverted attached barn, as well as stone outbuildings and stores arranged around a courtyard. The sweet cottage has a flagstone-floored reception room, a kitchen/diner with an emerald-green Rayburn cooker and a separate utility. It has superfast broadband and water supplied from a borehole that was installed last year. You're surrounded by splendid scenery including Hustyn Woods for beautiful strolls. Amenities are a ten-minute drive away in Wadebridge.

EPC D (C)
Upside Bags of potential (subject to planning consent).
Downside Not for the faint-hearted.
Contact johnbrayestates.co.uk



Birmingham

Edgbaston, one of Birmingham's poshest 'hoods, is known for fancy, older homes, but if you prefer to live in a new-build your luck is in. The Middleton Collection at Beaufort comprises seven detached homes in a gated courtyard. The last one is on the market: it has four bedrooms and three bathrooms set over three storeys. On the ground floor there's an open-plan kitchen/dining room/living area with bifold doors onto the back garden. The kitchen has quartz worktops and there's a separate utility room. The main living room is on the first floor, with a Juliet balcony overlooking the rear garden.

EPC B (predicted)
Upside It's a new-build, so your energy bills should be lower.
Downside The principal bedroom has sloping ceilings.
Contact savills.com









Brief encounter
Ask the expert

Q Despite our neighbours' objections, we got planning permission to convert our basement. They are now threatening legal proceedings unless we pay for their party wall surveyor. Can we object?

A The Party Wall etc Act 1996 covers works including the construction of a wall or building astride or up to the boundary with neighbouring properties, work on existing party walls or party structures, and excavations near neighbouring buildings. The procedure is entirely separate from planning. Having planning consent does not void the need to comply with the 1996 act.

Before starting work, building owners should give any adjoining owners a party wall notice that complies with the 1996 act. If there is a dispute, both sides are entitled to appoint party wall surveyors who may negotiate an agreement. The agreement typically includes the work to be carried out, the timing of any noisy work, anything needed to protect the neighbour's property, access, scaffolding, compensation for any damage and who pays the costs. If the two surveyors cannot agree, a third, independent party wall surveyor may be asked to step in and make a formal award.

Although building owners generally end up paying the costs of both party wall surveyors, that does not mean they can be held to ransom. Under section 10(13)(c) of the act, an award may determine "the reasonable costs incurred in making or obtaining an award", or reasonable inspections and any other matter arising from the dispute. This means the costs themselves can be referred to a third-party surveyor if they are excessive. In the 2017 county court case of *Reeves v Young*, the judge warned that party wall surveyors cannot therefore charge a "ludicrously high" rate — because ultimately the courts could intervene.

It follows that you will almost certainly have to pay the costs of your neighbour's party wall surveyor, but you can object to any unreasonable fees.

Mark Loveday is a barrister with Tanfield Chambers. Email questions to brief.encounter@thetimes.co.uk



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Vale of Glamorgan

You'd be forgiven for thinking this house was in Switzerland rather than in Wales. Wildwood Ridge is an imposing two-storey property built with Gelligaer stone. Sitting in the hamlet of Graig Penllyn, the house has four double bedrooms, two bathrooms, four receptions, a large kitchen, an impressive hall on the ground floor and attic space underneath the pitched roof. A private driveway leads up to the house and to the double garage below a large terrace, which stretches to the back of the property. It has landscaped gardens that border four acres of woodland.

EPC E (C)
Upside Secluded.
Downside The bathroom tiling won't be to everyone's tastes.
Contact harrisbirt.co.uk



United States

On Long Island, in Nassau County, New York, Roslyn Heights is a comfortable family suburb 20 miles from Manhattan and three miles from the beach. Residents on Niche, a review website for neighbourhoods, wax lyrical about the community spirit: Easter egg hunts and Christmas lighting ceremonies, good schools, decent parks, low crime. It's in a commuter belt, near an expressway and the Long Island Rail Road, which can get you into New York City in about 50 minutes. This colonial-style house has five bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, 2,300 sq ft and a good-sized back garden. The front porch is pure Americana, evoking lazy summer afternoons on a rocking chair.

Upside Like something out of a Hallmark movie.
Downside The kitchen and bathrooms look tired.
Contact knightfrank.com



Moving stories

Your tales from up and down the property ladder

'It's more affordable to live in Texas than in Cambridge'





Sylvia Clebsch with her family at their Cambridge home, left

In 2004 my husband and I were newly married and living in San Francisco. I got offered a job in London working as a journalist for CNET [says Sylvia Clebsch, 49]. I felt as though it was time to leave America and I wanted an adventure. I really liked living and working in London. Then we had kids and the maternity benefits were much better here than in the US. We started making friends and my husband started studying for a PhD, which kept us here. That led to him starting a dream job with a software company in Cambridge.

Cambridge was a nice change from London. We moved from a three-bedroom flat with a tiny garden to having a four-bedroom house with a front and back garden. Cambridge is just nice: you can cycle around without worrying that the cars are going to kill you. I cycle everywhere.

The thing I love about Newnham, our neighbourhood, is that it's about a mile to the market square and five minutes to farmers' fields, or you can walk down the River Cam to Grantchester Meadows.

After the pandemic, my husband's company said that people could work from anywhere in the world. I work for a content agency that has remote working, so both of our jobs became very flexible. And we started to think about family. Our parents are starting to get older; when we moved here 20 years ago they were more sprightly. Now their ability to travel is not as good and something about the pandemic, when it became more difficult to fly, made us more aware of distance. Everybody assumes that you can always hop on a plane but sometimes it's not that easy.

So after 19 years in the UK, we've decided to move back to the US. The turning point was at Easter. We went on holiday to the US and saw family. We went to California and drove across the Rocky Mountains. America is just such a big and beautiful place. After so much time in Europe, it felt kind of exotic. We could have chosen any city in the world, but we chose Austin, Texas. My husband has family there and it's a really vibrant city. It's been growing amazingly and lots of people from California are moving there. It's booming economically, there's an amazing music scene and food scene (we are both real foodies). The weather is warm, with lots of opportunities for hiking and swimming. And it's more affordable than Cambridge.

Our house in Cambridge is on the market (for £1.8 million with Cheffins). It has four bedrooms and has been completely renovated, and we've loved living there. But where we are looking in West Austin, which has great public schools, a four-bedroom home costs less: $1.5 million to $1.8 million (£1.2 million to £1.4 million) and you get 500-1,000 additional square feet, a swimming pool and a bigger plot. Real-estate prices have skyrocketed in Austin over the past ten years. Everyone there says it's more expensive. But actually for us, coming from Cambridge, it's more affordable.

I never thought I'd end up living in Texas. I'm a Yankee. I grew up in Boston, which is one of the more European American cities. But Austin is a real melting pot. Another attraction is the tech industry: if our jobs go away, there's a growing tech economy.

When we leave the UK, I'll miss the country walks, Sunday pub lunches and English ale. England has a great right-of-way system, being able to walk anywhere. We'll miss the friends we've made after 19 years. I won't miss the dark winters.

I'm looking forward to American road trips: big open roads, the interstate highway, the big sky; Texas has this amazing sky. Also top-loading American washers and dryers. And American food: taquerias, pizza, burgers.

I have some anxiety about going back: what the culture is going to be like in Texas, and how much less American am I after living here for so long?

It's interesting: my kids were born here and have English accents, but they say they don't feel entirely British, yet they feel too British to be American.

When you move, there are practical reasons, but there's intuition at play too. When we were back there on holiday, I felt a sense of belonging. I came here because I wanted to have an adventure. Now it's time to go home.

Interview by Hugh Graham

Have your say
Would you like to share your moving story? Email **carol.lewis@thetimes.co.uk**



Your front row seat to a world class view

VISTA

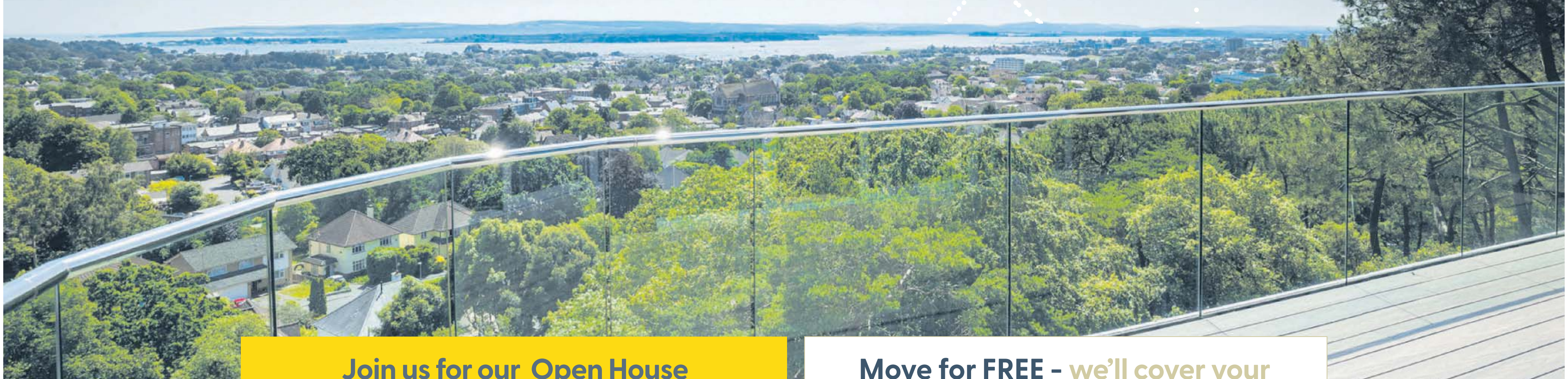
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Albert Dock in Liverpool. The city's central district is one of the top ten places where sellers outnumber buyers

COVER STORY

Sitting pretty in

Look to metropolitan areas for a wealth of property listings — and good deals. By Melissa York

With interest rates and mortgages in turmoil (again), it can feel like a tough time to be a buyer. Don't despair, though. In some pockets of the country there are lots of properties for sale and demand has dampened. Buyers here have the upper hand.

There has been a 70 per cent increase in properties for sale compared with spring last year, and a 30 per cent fall in new prospective buyers, according to a report from the industry body Propertymark. Nathan Emerson, Propertymark's chief executive, says: "Sellers should be prepared to be patient as it will be taking a little longer to receive an offer. However, we know we have some solid and motivated buyers out there."

There were 70 new buyers per estate agency branch in England and Wales on average in April, down from 93 in March, and viewings are down 53 per cent year-on-year. In April 74 per cent of estate agents said that most agreed sales were below the asking price.

Even in the desirable Cotswolds, where buyers were trying to outbid each other to secure the best houses during the pandemic, there's a surplus of properties on the market.

Lindsay Cuthill, who runs the high-end estate agency Blue Book, says: "After a slow start to the year a really juicy amount of stock, particularly above £1 million, has recently hit the spring market in the central and south Cotswolds. The villages surrounding the commutable Kemble railway station near Cirencester are buzzing in particular. There's been a more than 100 per cent increase in stock on the same time last year. Post the major lockdowns, many who'd been thinking of moving had been sitting on their hands, particularly downsizers, but this spring we've seen a bonanza."

The biggest buyers' markets, however, are in its biggest cities. Seven of the top ten places where sellers outnumber buyers are central London postcodes, according to Propertymark.

The best place in England and Wales to be a buyer right now is in the EC2 postcode. This area covers Bishopsgate, Moorgate, Liverpool Street and stretches just beyond Great Eastern Street in Shoreditch. The heart of the City of London's insurance district, it is heavily populated with shops and offices, but there are many high-profile residential developments there, including the Barbican, the Norman Foster-designed Principal Tower and the Stage, built on the site of the Curtain Theatre (used by Shakespeare's acting troupe, the Lord Chamberlain's Men), where a one-bedroom flat is on sale for £970,000.

Homes may be languishing on the market here because many of them are expensive new-build flats. These are high-spec, luxury developments that are typically favoured by international investors, who have not yet returned in full force after the pandemic, and high-earning City workers, many of whom decided to move out of London and work from home. The owners of inner-city luxury homes tend to be well-off and don't need to sell quickly to fund their next move — so they can afford to wait for the right price.

Matt Johnson, an area director at the estate agency Johns&Co, says: "It's likely that sellers in this area believe that their properties hold significant value and are willing to wait for the right buyer who recognises and appreciates the unique qualities of living in such an iconic location."

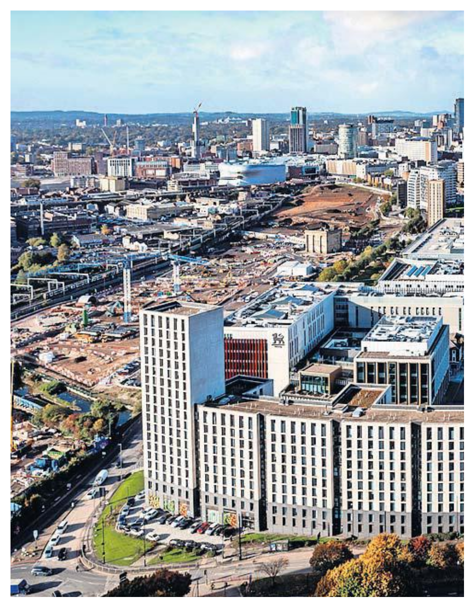
Other central London postcodes that are traditionally commercial but have seen a recent influx of shiny new flats also appear in the top ten buyers' markets, such as W1 (Fitzrovia and Marylebone), WC2 (High Holborn and Covent Garden) and W2 (Hyde Park and Paddington).

There are two smart, traditionally residential London neighbourhoods on the list, however: St John's Wood (NW8) and South Kensington (SW7). Mark Pollack, director of the estate agency Aston Chase, says there are many sought-after period houses with big gardens in these areas, and close to good schools. These properties rarely come onto the market, though, staying in families for decades. Sellers, often downsizers, have an emotional and financial investment in them, and they have typically undergone renovations and restorations.

> "Seven of the top ten places where sellers outnumber buyers are in central London

Sellers in these upmarket neighbourhoods want asking prices to reflect this, and can be slow to reduce them when the market changes. Older homeowners are more likely to own their homes outright, so they are less likely to be aware of fluctuations in the mortgage markets.

"I think the area [St John's Wood] took a while to recalibrate in terms of pricing," Pollack says. "I think a lot of our clients' expectations didn't reflect what had gone on, and subsequently, after a period of inactivity, we've managed their expectations better and prices have been reduced."



Two properties listed with Aston Chase that have recently been reduced include a four-bedroom detached period house on Loudoun Road, close to the American School in London (from £6.75 million to £6.45 million), and a grade II listed five-bedroom terraced house in Abbey Gardens (from £4.65 million to £4.495 million).

Also in the top ten is Liverpool's L1 postcode, the city's central district on the edge of the waterfront. It is home

Top ten buyers' markets in England and Wales

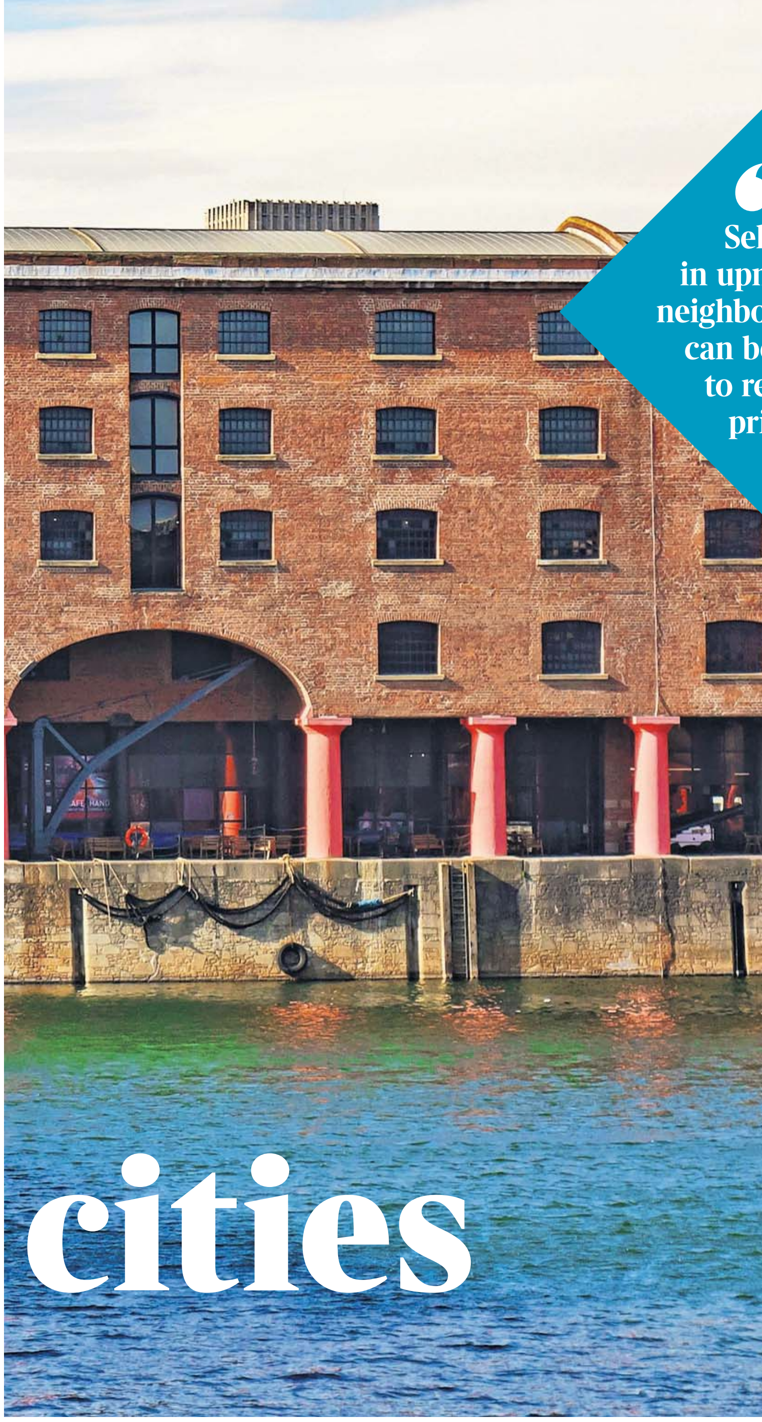
Postcode	Area
EC2	London
L2	Liverpool
W1	London
NW8	London
WC2	London
L1	Liverpool
SW7	London
NW4	London
B12	Birmingham
W2	London

Source: theadvisory.co.uk/propcast

Top ten buyers' markets (excluding London)

Postcode	Area
L2	Liverpool
L1	Liverpool
LL36	Tywyn
B12	Birmingham
LL61	Llanfairpwllgwyngyll
DN36	Grimsby
PO35	Bembridge
SA33	Carmarthen
LL32	Conwy
B1	Birmingham

Source: theadvisory.co.uk/propcast



cities

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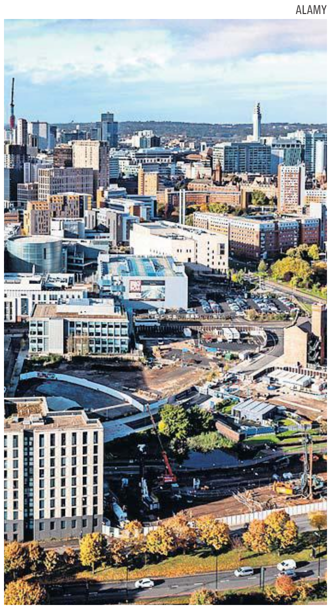
> Sellers in upmarket neighbourhoods can be slow to reduce prices



Above and on the cover: a four-bedroom Victorian house in St John's Wood, NW8, is on sale for £6.45 million (reduced from £6.75 million) with Aston Chase



A six-bedroom, 4,330 sq ft house with sea views in Tywyn, Gwynedd, is on the market for £625,000 (reduced from £650,000) through Fine & Country







A two-bedroom flat in Marylebone, central London, is on sale for £1.295 million (reduced from £1.5 million) through Carter Jonas

Tips for buyers

Research the local market
Look up recent sales of comparable properties in the same street and listings using online portals such as Rightmove and Zoopla, and speak to local estate agents.

Negotiate the price
You're in a strong position to negotiate confidently, but remember that this is someone's home. Don't make insulting offers or they may decide not to sell to you on principle. To get an idea of acceptable discounts add the Property Log extension to your internet browser, which allows you to look at price reductions made on properties listed on Rightmove.

Offer convenience or cash
If you can pay cash or move at a time that's convenient for the seller, they may accept a lower offer.

Do a survey before making an offer
If there are repairs or renovations to be made, the cost of these can be knocked off the price. Giving the seller a tangible reason for a discount may persuade them to accept a lower offer.

Shop around
Enjoy the process: time is on your side. Go on lots of viewings so you know what you want and how much you want to pay.

Tips for sellers

Be realistic on price
Buyers will know they are in a strong position, so expect offers below asking price. Price sensibly and you'll sell quickly. If buyers see that the property has been on the market for a long time and its price has been reduced it'll give them ammunition in negotiations.

Don't take lower offers personally
It may be your home sweet home but it's only worth what someone else is willing to pay for it.

Don't spend before the sale
If you're relying on the sale to fund your next move, don't shop for your new home before you've sold your current one, because you may not get the price you were expecting.

Be flexible
Buyers may pay the asking price if you can move at a time that suits them or offer to make repairs before they move in.

Get your home sale ready
Make sure your home is looking its best so it stands out from the competition. Manicured gardens, sparkling windows and decluttered spaces help to sell a house when the buyer has lots of them to choose from. Instruct a solicitor and get all your paperwork in order so you can complete quickly if that's what the buyer wants.

to Liverpool Cathedral, Liverpool One shopping centre and the Baltic Triangle, popular with start-ups. It is an area dominated by new-build flats, "which are well supplied, if not oversupplied", according to Henry Davis, an investor who owns properties in the city.

New-build studio apartments are for sale at about £125,000, and these properties should appeal to first-time buyers, but many have experienced difficulty obtaining large mortgages after interest rate rises and the end of the Help to Buy scheme. They should also be attractive to buy-to-let landlords in

Left: Birmingham. Above: a four-bedroom townhouse in St John's Wood, northwest London, is on sale for £4.495 million (reduced from £4.65 milion) with Aston Chase

Liverpool, but they are cautious about investing at the moment despite the city's thriving but underhoused student population. Higher mortgage rates are eating into their yields, and government reforms are causing many landlords to think again, Davis says.

"The wave of recent government policy is effectively taxing and legislating landlords out of business, which is further affecting investor confidence and demand, as is the higher interest rate environment. [Abolishing] Section 21 evictions is looking like a bit of a game-changer to the business model of landlords," he says.

"Additionally, in the case of the Liverpool market confidence has been affected because there have been a few scandals over the years, with Chinese investors losing their shirts."

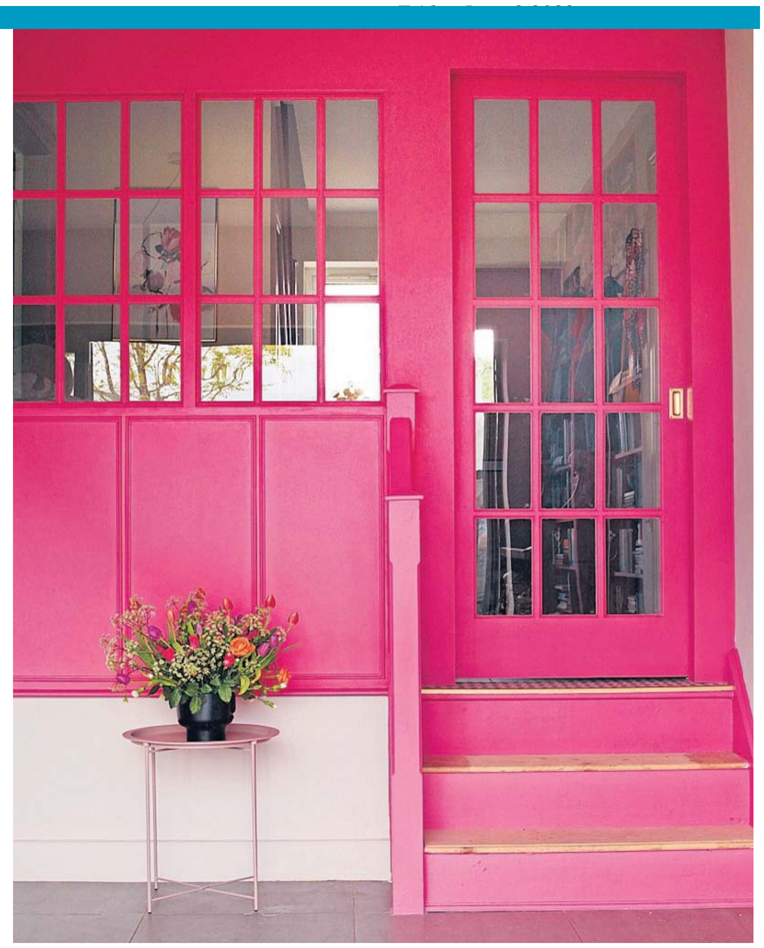
City of London police received more than 800 allegations of property fraud between 2015 and 2017. Five of the schemes under investigation were in Liverpool, including the £200 million "New Chinatown" development.

Subdued buy-to-let investment and higher interest rates could be the reasons the B12 postcode of Birmingham is the ninth biggest buyers' market in the country. Another city centre area, it's close to the Bullring shopping centre and includes Highgate, the Balti Triangle, Balsall Heath and parts of Digbeth. New-build flats dominate online listings in this postcode, where there are a lot of two-bedroom flats on sale for about £300,000 — these are popular with landlords looking to let to students and first-time buyers.

After the buying frenzy that followed the stamp duty holiday during the pandemic, buyers looking to make their home in the city, or invest there, will be relieved to know there are still places where they can take their time — and even get a good deal.



▲ Intelligent masonry paint by Little Greene in Mazarine blue, £79 for 5 litres, littlegreene.com



▲ Door painted in pink FTT-006 wood & metal paint by Mylands, £38 a litre, mylands.com. Photo by @halfpaintedhouse



Dip and dazzle

Bold paint choices can transform your outside space from drab to fab, says Marianne Cotterill

If you don't consider shocking pink or sunshine yellow suitable shades for the garden, my advice is to think again.

I've repainted my home, inside and out, for photo shoots for paint brands from Farrow & Ball to Little Greene and Annie Sloan, and discovered vivid colours are not just for interiors. In fact, the hotter Mediterranean hues might be just what we need to cheer up this British summer.

Firstly, I have always found the lapis lazuli blues at the Majorelle gardens and villa in Marrakesh electrifying. Majorelle was made famous by the fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent, who purchased the property in the 1980s. It seemed almost sacrilegious to bring this intense blue to a cold UK climate, but I think I've changed my mind. The colour has been creeping into interiors for some time now — the Italian designer Paola Navone has always been a fan — but it is spreading its wings and flying outside onto garden furniture and walls.

Ultramarine Blue by Bristol Paint is very similar to Majorelle blue and was often prominent in the enormous window of the (now closed) Conran Shop at Brompton Cross in southwest London — a bold, beautiful, summery sight on a grey London day.

I am not advocating painting the exterior of your house in Ultramarine Blue — most people would run for the hills at the prospect — but for outdoor spaces that's another thing. The designer Tricia Guild has used a clear blue called Cloudless in her garden in London to great effect. It looks like the sky on a summer's day.

Masonry paint can be bought in virtually any colour. I have been experimenting with some on my shoots and I have honestly not once regretted it. Having another space to decorate is an opportunity not to be missed, like continuing your wall paint onto the ceiling.

I worked recently on a campaign for Farrow & Ball, painting the kitchen of a narrow London house in Breakfast Room Green, then extending the shade onto its garden wall. The colour became a seamless river of harmonious green flowing from the inside out, particularly lovely in the early morning. Sounds like a cliché but it's true.

I am not a fan of feature walls inside but outside they work really well. In another location we were working with a deep powdery pink called Rangwali in a room overlooking the garden. We then took it outside and painted a seating area in the same colour to link the two spaces with the same pink. You don't need a big outdoor space for this; small balconies or even railings become more interesting when they are drenched in colour.

When using a strong colour outside it works best in small doses, for example to

> Strong colour works best in small doses, for example as a backdrop to your favourite plants



▲ Ducksback matt shed and fence treatment in Misty Heathland by Cuprinol, £10 for 5 litres, wickes.co.uk



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▲ **Chalk paint in Tilton by Annie Sloan, from £7.95 for 120ml, anniesloan.com**

◀ **Rangwali pink by Farrow & Ball, £81 for 2.5 litres exterior eggshell, farrow-ball.com**





▲ **Majorelle villa in Marrakesh. Achieve a similar look using Ultramarine Blue by Bristol Paint, £64.31 for 2.1 litres exterior matt, bristolpaint.com**

highlight an area that you want to sit in or as a backdrop for favourite plants. It then becomes a focal point, like art for the garden. A single architectural tree in front of a coloured wall is as good as a painting.

Painting outdoor furniture is always a good way to inject some colour outside, though I find it's best to keep to one colour or else it will look like a children's nursery. On an Annie Sloan shoot we painted some dull metal garden furniture in English Yellow using her excellent chalk paint, which covers just about anything. This sunny yellow is perfect for a dark corner in a garden or balcony.

If you don't like the idea of bright colours outside there are many natural earthy tones that are really easy to use. Given the trend for plaster walls inside, it is simple to emulate. Most paint companies offer lots of choice in plastery pinks. Kyoto Blossom from Designers Guild or Setting Plaster from Farrow & Ball are gentle options for the exterior. For a good neutral with some depth there is Attic II, a muddy soft brown from Little Greene, which blends beautifully into the landscape and is wonderful inside.

Front doors are the obvious choice for a flash of colour, and they are getting bolder. I stopped in my tracks when I noticed a deep Schiaparelli pink called FTT-006 by Mylands on a door recently, a brave choice that lifted a dour street from drab to fab. I also painted my front door and porch in Annie Sloan's English Yellow, then painted over it for a shoot — but I so regret it. I miss that sunshine door. It's coming back.

Save&splurge

Outdoor lighting

We have enjoyed a taste of summer sunshine, and now our attention is fully focused on making the most of whatever outdoor space we can find. Coffee on the patio? Yes please. Tomatoes in grow bags? Check. But what we want most of all is to spend balmy evenings eating and entertaining alfresco. Should this fantasy become a reality, a way to make outside areas work harder this year is to think about how best to illuminate them.

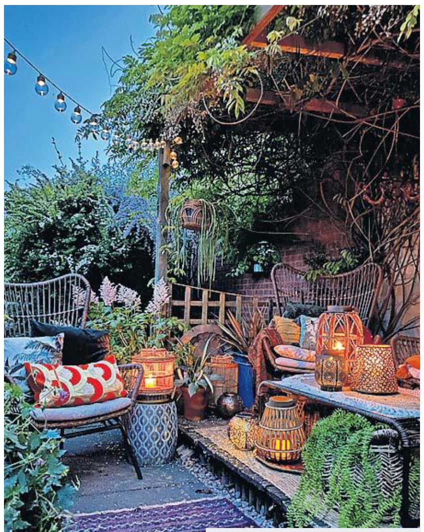
A bit of extra lighting — from a few jolly strings of solar-powered festoon lights to groups of oversized lanterns — may be money well spent: research by the charity Mind showed that nearly two thirds of UK adults say spending time gardening or in nature helps their mental health.

For that lightbulb moment, take inspiration from one of Instagram's most gorgeously lit gardens, that of Lisa Piddington, who has bought budget-friendly, solar-powered strings of lights from Wilko and B&M (@lisa_loves_vintage).

You could try a brazier for a cosy campfire feel, or buy a rechargeable lamp that can be used inside and out.



▲ Cairns medium garden lantern with TruGlow candle, £49.99, lights4fun.co.uk



▲ The garden at Lisa Piddington's Birmingham home, illuminated by string lights and lanterns

STEVE WOOSTER



▲ A lighting scheme by John Cullen Lighting for Osada Design, from £1,500, johncullenlighting.com



◀ An iron filigree rust brazier, £185, coxandcox.co.uk



◀ Solar Flame lantern, £25.95, sparkle.lighting



Compiled by Victoria Maw
@victoriamawwrites

▶ Pooky's rechargeable lamps have an abundance of options for shades. Wisteria, from £195, with striped shade, £61, pooky.com



South Kensington, southwest London, an area favoured by wealthy Turks. Below: Hanzade Dogan Boyner

From the Black Sea to Belgravia

Wealthy Turks are buying up elite postcodes in London. Melissa York reports

The wisteria-covered portico pillars of Belgravia are in full bloom, and the world's wealthiest are on the hunt for a safe haven for their families — and their cash.

"We typically see Middle Eastern, Asian and US investors in London, however, this year one nationality is standing out as unusually active," says Becky Fatemi, chief executive at the property buying agency Rokstone, "and that is buyers from Turkey."

There have been thriving communities of Turks, Kurds and Cypriots in London for decades, congregating mainly around north and southeast London. However, in the past two to three years they have been joined by a growing number of Istanbul's moneyed elite looking for a stable place in which to invest their wealth.

This week Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has dominated Turkish politics for 20 years, narrowly beat Kemal Kilicdaroglu to be re-elected president, with 52.16 per cent of the vote. The country has been in economic turmoil since 2018, and this is believed to have led to Erdogan's party, the AKP, losing Turkey's biggest cities, including Istanbul and Ankara, in the 2019 local elections. There was a modest economic recovery during the pandemic, but the Turkish lira lost 44 per cent of its value against the dollar in 2021 after the Central Bank of Turkey cut interest rates from 19 per cent to 14 per cent.

Camilla Dell, founder of the buying agency Black Brick, says the currency crash means some Turks can only afford to rent in London at the moment, but the wealthier ones are keen to get their money out of Turkey. "Many Turks fear the longer Erdogan remains in power, the worse the country's economy will become. They have lost all hope that he can turn it around. His handling of the earthquake disaster [in February] has only cemented this thought in the mind of many Turks, both locally and Turkish expats," she says.

Turkey's high-net-worth population is set to grow by 156.5 per cent by 2027, according to Knight Frank's Wealth Report — faster than any other country's elite.

In London wealthy Turks like to rub shoulders in the prestigious neighbourhoods favoured by buyers from the United Arab Emirates, southeast Asia and, until recently, Russia. Turkish entrepreneurs were behind some of the biggest property deals in Knightsbridge, Mayfair, South Kensington and Belgravia last year.

Hanzade Dogan Boyner, one of Turkey's most high-profile tech bosses, who founded Hepsiburada, an online shopping platform dubbed "the Amazon of the East", bought a six-bedroom Victorian mansion in Belgravia for £27 million last summer. In the winter there was a significant sale in Cadogan Square, Knightsbridge, to a Turkish buyer, who paid £27 million for a property that was originally listed for £35 million.



Rokstone has completed on several properties on behalf of Turkish buyers this year, including a £31 million house in Mayfair, a £7.5 million flat in Knightsbridge and a £4.5 million flat in Paddington. In the past few weeks Fatemi has found two properties for Turks, one in Knightsbridge and the other near Hyde Park. "Both wanted a house with a porter, good ceiling heights and good views," she says. "The political uncertainty in Turkey seems to be the driving factor behind this heightened interest in London."

Turkish buyers looking for a speedy purchase will pay cash for new-build flats by the Thames, reports Lindsay Cuthill, founder of the prime property agency Blue Book. He says: "Buying momentum from Turkey, particularly in London's prime postcodes, hits new heights when they have an election. Instability often encourages quick financial thinking."

Institutional Turkish investors too are looking to the UK for solid returns. Will Watson at the Buying Solution, Knight Frank's in-house buying agency, confirms that he has started working with a Turkish fund to find high-end family homes with potential for long-term capital growth.

Capital gains

Nationalities investing in London property in 2022

UK	77%
Europe*	9%
Asia	6%
United States	2%
Other	2%
Middle East	2%
South Africa	1%
Australia	1%

*Includes Turkey. Source: Hamptons

At the end of September 2021 Eren Paper bought Shotton Paper Mill in Flintshire for £600 million — one of the largest investments made by a Turkish conglomerate in the UK. It plans to employ 660 people to make containerboard, a packaging material.

Turkish buyers aren't just looking to make a quick buck, however. Owning a holiday home in London is seen as evidence that one has "made it" in Turkey, according to Dell.

Education is a key driver for upwardly mobile Turkish families, according to Sophie Rogerson, managing director at the buying agency RFR, who says that she has a £15 million budget from one Turkish client to find a house near Francis Holland, a private girls' school in Sloane Square, Chelsea, that charges fees of £7,750 a term.

Now that Erdogan has won another term, secondary residency is a "hot topic" among Rogerson's clients' friends: one is considering moving her two children to the capital for the start of the school year, and a lawyer friend is looking for an investment property in central London.

"London is not the only option, of course. Greece, Portugal and Italy are also discussed at length," she says. "However, with English so commonly spoken among Turks, the transition to life in London is felt to be more smooth. There is also a view that, with its vibrant cultural scene, ownership of a London property provides a social cachet that other destinations cannot compete with."*

Savvy spender

Down to the wire: the best indestructible electronics

> Apple devices have the longest life span of mobile phones — about eight years

Growing up, I spent years traipsing around electrical shops with my father, an appliance repairman for more than three decades. I grumbled at the time, but now electronics has become a topic I find strangely engrossing.

While asking around for intel on long-lasting tech, certain brands consistently popped up. The television presenter Dr Xand van Tulleken tells me, "I bought my Ultimate Ears Boom speaker in 2013. I take it everywhere and treat it terribly and it's still going strong," while the freelance series producer Gaby Koppel has a Moulinex coffee grinder that has lasted for 35 years. Several friends and colleagues professed their adoration of British-made Dualit kettles and toasters. Some have lasted two decades — my two-slice toaster, which I bought second-hand from Gumtree for £40 about five years ago, has been a steadfast workhorse, although I realise the £170 price tag for a new version is quite steep (dualit.com).

Kudos to anyone still using an ancient Nokia, but I love my smartphone. Eventually I will trade in my iPhone 12, released in 2020 (£649, apple.com) for something with a better battery life and camera. I've looked around for alternatives — the repairable Terracube 2e has a four-year warranty (£309, buymeonce.com) — but I can't get on board with Android's operating system.

I was impressed with the 200MP camera on Samsung's S23 Galaxy Ultra smartphone (£1,249, argos.co.uk) released this year and named the "highest-scoring mobile phone to date" by Which?. However, since trying out Apple's latest mobile offering — the iPhone 14 Pro Max (£1,119, apple.com, a Which? Best Buy with an 83 per cent rating) I am smitten. It is expensive, but the battery life is Apple's best yet (16 hours and 18 minutes according to the website MacRumors), the camera is phenomenal and using it is an easy-peasy dream.

James Murdock, a co-founder of Alchemy Global Solutions, a company responsible for refurbishing 3.7 million devices, says: "Apple devices have the longest life span. The economics run out before the tech does, typically at about eight years. At that point, they are recycled, and their still relatively valuable metals are recovered. Leading Samsung devices are beyond economical repair a little earlier, perhaps five years. The rest last, on average, three to four years."



Buy Me Once is a good resource for longer-lasting products — for example, its repairable, plastic-free Suri electric toothbrush has a 5/5 review rating (£75, buymeonce.com) while its Tangle-Free Reinforced Charging Cable is one of its top sellers (£17.99, buymeonce.com). The technology journalist Paul Armstrong also rates the "superb quality" of Native Union cables (from £16.99, nativeunion.com)

Victoria Brzezinski

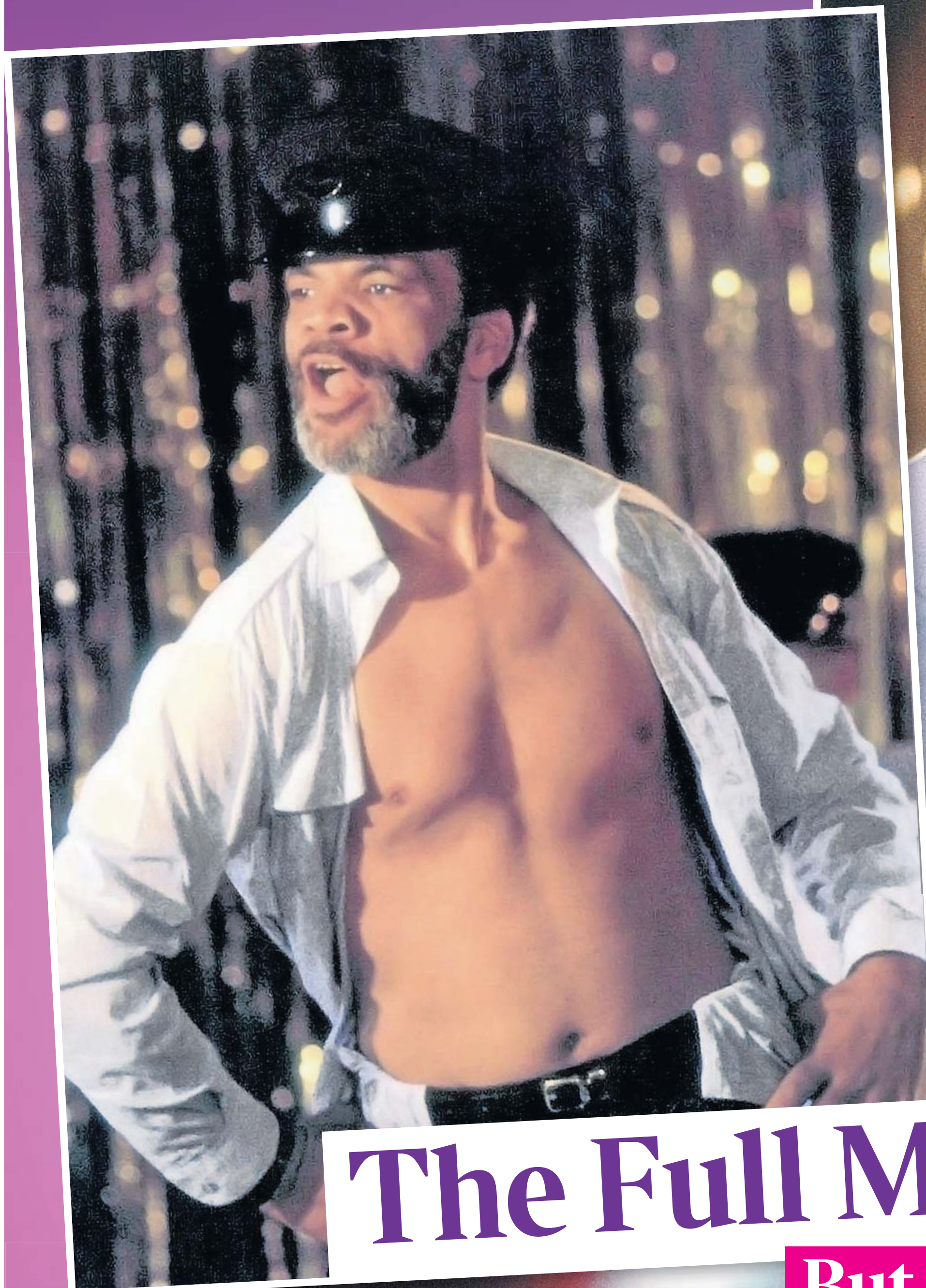

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The Full Monty returns

But will the old boys strip off?







Caitlin Moran's Celebrity Watch





6

Pedro Pascal

Good morning, dear Times reader. Let us begin by pondering the specifics of the fame that has come to Pedro Pascal.

Pascal played Oberyn Martell in *Game of Thrones* — a particularly vivacious and swashbuckling hunk whom viewers "enjoyed" very much. Less enjoyed, at the time, was his onscreen death. It was a very sudden, unexpected and brutal end wherein Martell appeared to have bested the evil henchman The Mountain in a duel and thus possibly saved the world. Unfortunately at the last minute The Mountain grabbed Martell's head, placed his thumbs over his eyeballs and then pushed his eyeballs into his brain, during which he totally and agonisingly died.

It was an extraordinary moment — but it has left Pascal with an unusual legacy. Apparently numerous fans have subsequently begged Pascal for a selfie in which they re-enact this scene by putting their own thumbs over his eyes.

"At first I was so earnest and happy about the success of the character in the show, I'd let them!" he told The Hollywood Reporter's Drama Actors round table.

But then, he continued, "I developed an eye infection". And now Pascal does not let dirty-fingered fans stick their thumbs in his eyes any more.

All this does make me concerned for other *Game of Thrones* actors and what the "selfie legacy" of their roles has consisted of. For while Martell might have had his eyeballs minced, Theon Greyjoy — played by Alfie Allen — had his genitals sawn off.

What pictures are his fans asking for? And have they used antibac first?

5



Jeff Bezos

It's hard being the world's on/off richest man. You might own the second biggest yacht in the world — the 419ft Koru — but still feel Yacht Deficiency. This is, presumably, what happened to Bezos as we learnt his superyacht has its own "support yacht", the Abeona, which features a helipad, as there was no room for one on Koru.

Once superyachts have "support yachts", you enter "old woman who swallowed a fly" territory. Will the support yacht — itself 246ft — need its own support yacht? And thence, on and on, until Bezos is finally sailing around the world at the head of a 30-strong flotilla, the last in line being a single paddleboard with a stressed-looking PA-to-the-PA-to-the-PA on it?



4

Gregg Wallace

To the world of light entertainment, where Gregg Wallace has had a moment of revelation increasingly common for men of his age.

"Greg Wallace 'quit *Inside the Factory* after upsetting staff'" ran the Times headline. Reading on, we learnt that Wallace, whose presenting style might be most succinctly described as "refreshingly non-complex man points at things and shouts, '*Fantastic*!'", has had to leave the hit show after offending staff at factories he visited.

"During [a] visit [to the Nestlé factory in York], Wallace engaged in banter with staff that he believed to be friendly but was considered inappropriate. The comments are understood to have related to the weight of female staff members.

"A complaint was made to the production company. [However] he … continued to talk in a derogatory manner, especially to women," a source close to the situation said. "He was given a talking-to and was appalled that he had caused such offence."



Wallace subsequently quit the show, and this quote from "sources close to him" floats in the air like a statement for the age: "He felt that he was just trying to be friendly but no longer knew what the right thing to say was any more and decided to leave."

It is a fact, in 2023, that while the leading causes of physical death for men over the age of 50 are heart disease, cancer and respiratory disorders, the leading causes of career death are "no longer knowing the right things to say" and "inappropriate banter".

You would think there would by now be adult education classes open to anyone who buys their jeans from a market stall and/or is known to have said "sweet cheeks", wherein they can learn to be modern, unproblematic men. Perhaps lessons could be led by a self-styled "Archbishop of Banterbury", who could lead them gently through the moral maze — accompanied by the odd well-timed "no, mate" — and towards the sunlit uplands of conversation that doesn't upset anyone who isn't also a straight white man over 50. It would be a boon to society as a whole. And, let's face it, only take half an hour. Basically, if you wouldn't say it to Kate Middleton, on a hot mike, during *Children in Need*, then don't say it to anyone. I'm happy to send Wallace my customary $777,777 consultancy invoice in the post.

3

Tina Turner

As we all know, most stories with "Exclusive!" emblazoned over the top tend to revolve around dolorous matters. Affairs, lies, cover-ups, Schofield.

This week, however, in the wake of the death of Tina Turner, MailOnline broke with this unhappy tradition with one of their "Exclusives!", the headline beneath reading: "Tina Turner spent her final months taking yoga classes at the park, shopping for Italian designer clothes and gourmet foods, and driving her Porsche Cayenne around her lakeside village, where she was known as 'modest' and 'friendly'".

The thought of all this was so cheering — good old Tina, making up for her horrific childhood and first marriage with such a pleasant-sounding and serene old age — that I instantly became hungry for more. Every paper, every day, should have one "Exclusive!" that's just a pleasant piece of information about someone having a nice life. To differentiate from the old-school "Exclusives", I would call these "Ex-soothe-sives".

2



Wisteria

To wisteria, which MailOnline informed us, "can add 5 per cent to the value of your home". Homebuyers are "smitten … with the look of the trailing purple flowers", the article explained. Apparently wisteria's heavy presence in *Bridgerton* sparked a boom in sales last year and now everyone wants a slice of the wisteria pie.

Personally I would have been tempted to coin the phrase "wisteria hysteria", but MailOnline clearly lacks my "giddy goat" gene, word-wise.

As someone lucky enough to have a large wisteria growing up the back of their house, I can fill in the "wisteria hungry" on the pros and cons of our leggy purple friend. Pros: obviously it's beautiful, it smells like a dream, and a plant, as MailOnline pointed out, costs only £40.

The cons, however, are numerous: the exact point at which it becomes big enough to be beautiful is also the exact point at which it becomes too tall to prune without a helicopter. But, most crucially, once the blooms are over — sometimes in as little as four weeks — millions of weird, pale wisteria blossom skeletons blow off the bush, in through your windows and into the corners of your rooms, where they shift around in restless circles like ghost mice.

So what I'm saying is that, in terms of house prices, wisteria is only a boon between April and May. In those months, yeah, you'll get your 5 per cent rise. But if you're selling your house from June onwards, they'll want 5 per cent taken off due to "enchanted undead rodents dancing around the kickboards", *Bridgerton* or not.

1V

Phillip Schofield

For the past 15 years the BBC has been the unhappy owner of the Most Problematic Terrestrial Broadcaster title, reeling from the legacies of both Rolf Harris and Jimmy Savile.

As the BBC went through its own painful process of reckoning and apology on these matters — in the case of Savile having to do a *Panorama* on itself, which is existentially a bit like becoming your own psychiatrist — the other terrestrial channels must have sighed in relief. It sucked to be the BBC in, say, 2012, with headlines like "Savile: BBC's abuse of your licence fee". Even though, to be fair to the BBC, Savile had also managed to pull the wool over the eyes of the prime minister Margaret Thatcher as well as Charles and Diana, for whom he apparently acted as an "informal marriage guidance counsellor". A job that, we can safely say, he was both totally not qualified for and proved to be absolutely f***ing terrible at.

Anyway, for this week at least, there is a challenger to the BBC's sad crown of the Predator's Palace, as ITV1 faces what we might call the Schofepocalypse. As allegations against Phillip Schofield mount — with the former *This Morning* co-host Eamonn Holmes leading the charge with statements like "just telling the truth in the face of a coercive controller!" — all the polarities of the light entertainment world have been reversed. Schofield — the Safe Hands Silverback of Live TV — is being accused of hiring a teenager he met when the teen was just 15, beginning an affair with him after he reached the age of 18, "whisking him" away for "playtime" at Schofield's London apartment "in cabs paid for by ITV" and "lying" and "covering up" the relationship, thus creating "an atmosphere where people hated [Schofield]".

"The show is tired and needs to go with dignity," said Dianne Nelmes, the creator of *This Morning*, this week. And the utterly beleaguered programme does look like it will go, but without dignity: already wobbly post-Queuegate, it has now lost £2 million in sponsorship deals, and celebrity guests are declining invites, unwilling to be associated with a brand in such turmoil. Schofield has killed daytime ITV.

His statement on the affair contained the already legendary kicker that it was "unwise, but not illegal", which has now spent the best part of a week being solidly memed and appearing as a caption on pictures as various as eg David Cameron holding a pig and the atomic blast at Hiroshima. At present you cannot find a good word to be said about either Schofield or his co-host Holly Willoughby. The reliably furious Kim Woodburn from *How Clean Is Your House?* appeared on GB News to creatively dub Willoughby "an impy, wimpy little bitch" who "aided and abetted Schofield" — a very serious charge for which, as yet, there is no evidence, and which seems like yet another instance of any nearby women being blamed for the bad behaviour of men.

And just how bad is his behaviour? Really? Even if we accept that he was "rude" and "distant" to the *This Morning* crew, abused ITV1's cab account and had an affair with a junior staff member while still married to his wife? We can certainly admit it's not a great CV, and no one's going to line up to give him a medal for being smashing. There are no forthcoming "Awesome Schofield Awards".

Yet the current reaction does seem dangerously out of proportion. Mentioning him in the same breath as Harris or Savile is simply wrong: their actions were illegal, and Savile's on a scale and with a darkness almost without precedent. Schofield has undoubtedly lied and handled things terribly, and management at ITV1 has a long, long list of questions to answer. But the blowtorch shaming and breaking news ticker tape focused on one person who has certainly been unwise but who hasn't done anything illegal, and who is almost certainly in a very dark place mentally — along with his former partner, for whom all this will be excruciating — seems … also unwise.



Funnily, 25 years ago discussing a situation like Schofield's would have been a shoo-in for a *This Morning* debate, with Richard and Judy, Dr Chris and the agony aunt Denise Robertson treating it with both the seriousness and compassion it deserves. Although Madeley would have probably gone off-road at some point and launched into an anecdote about Judy's ovaries or some hedgehogs.

Perhaps the most fitting thing would be for *This Morning* to do one final phone-in, the subject being *This Morning* itself. Let Holly and Phil do the brave thing: face the viewers, explain themselves, apologise and do what daytime TV is supposed to do, which is discuss humanity's most difficult issues in less than ten minutes — and then cut to a review of 100 denier tights. And if it doesn't seem resolved by the time they reach the fashion expert Shakaila Forbes-Bell going at the legs with a cheese-grater to prove how strong they are, then *This Morning* truly is over. If the personal lives of daytime TV hosts are too hot for daytime TV to handle, that is the final reckoning of the host — and the show.

I wish more of our pop stars were like unfiltered Matty

The 1975 singer has noted Harry Styles' reluctance to speak up, something Matty Healy can't be accused of, says Ed Potton

Matty Healy is that rare thing — a pop star who delights in ruffling feathers. Which, call me old-fashioned, is one of the things that pop stars are meant to do. The most telling part of his excellent recent interview with The New Yorker came when Healy addressed the subject of Harry Styles. This is sensitive ground — the two have been compared for years.

They are both effeminate but basically straight, curly-haired sex symbols who have eclipsed their bands; Styles with One Direction, Healy with the 1975, although he's never gone solo. Both occupy that volatile space between commercial and cool and both have been romantically linked to Taylor Swift.

Yet there is one big difference between the two, impishly highlighted by Healy, 34, in the interview. Discussing how the 1975 invited Styles, 29, to join them at one of their shows, Healy said: "He gave us a hard no … he's afraid that he would have to say something." This has never been a problem for Healy.

He has sung with insight and candour about masculinity and online culture, tweeted after the death of George Floyd that "if you truly believe that 'all lives matter' you need to stop facilitating the end of black ones" and told anti-abortion lawmakers in Alabama that "you are not men of God, you are simply misogynistic wankers". Responding to rumours of dating Swift in 2014, Healy said that being her boyfriend would be "emasculating", something that Styles, Calvin Harris, Tom Hiddleston et al may well have felt but didn't admit in public.

In 2014 I met Healy at Pikes, the hotel in Ibiza where Wham! shot the video for *Club Tropicana* in 1983 and Freddie Mercury had a birthday party that is said to have featured dwarfs with saucers of cocaine on their heads. Healy seemed right at home, chain-smoking Marlboro Lights by the pool in a trilby. In some ways he is a better fit with the licentious, morally nebulous Eighties than he is with today's pristine pop landscape. "I'm an easy person to dislike," Healy told me, adding that he had "proper pop stars and stuff wanting to shag me all the time". Did he mean Swift, who was pictured around that time in a 1975 T-shirt? Fabulously, he said he wrestled with questions such as "Am I the Messiah, you know?"

DAVE HOGAN/HOGAN MEDIA LTD/SHUTTERSTOCK



Matty Healy performing with the 1975 last month. Below: Taylor Swift



You could compare Healy to another fey, controversial frontman of a Manchester band. He certainly doesn't share Morrissey's politics, describing himself as a "traditional progressive who is suspicious of woke-ism", or his attitude towards meat, having taken bites of steak on stage. He does, though, have some of Morrissey's willingness to offend.

> **'I'm an easy person to dislike,' Healy told me**

That was the case in February when Healy appeared on *The Adam Friedland Show*, a woke-lampooning podcast in which he laughed while the hosts imitated Inuit and Chinese accents and joked about the ethnic heritage of the American rapper Ice Spice. Healy later apologised, saying, "We all get it wrong, and I just have to do it in public." In April he deleted his Instagram account, stating, "I make a joke out of everything and I've taken it too far sometimes."

In this case, yes, but you wonder if his links to the squeaky-clean Swift played a part in his contrition. While I hope he doesn't turn into Morrissey, I also hope he doesn't become like Swift, Styles and their fellow A-listers, who burnish their liberal credentials but seldom say anything that can be construed as spiky or even unusual. You could argue Healy is at the rung below them on the fame ladder; they have more to lose. Although I suspect he would be like this even if he were a megastar. And what a megastar he would make.

the arts column

Laura Freeman



When did we become so undiscriminating about female artists?

Can a female artist be a not-so-good artist? Can a great female artist have an off-day or decade? I ask because, in our heartfelt desire to find and promote the work of women artists, we seem to be losing our heads.

In the past year I have seen and reviewed shows by a monstrous regiment of female artists. Carolee Schneemann, Soheila Sokhanvari and Alice Neel at the Barbican. Sheila Hicks and Jadé Fadojutimi at Hepworth Wakefield. Barbara Chase-Riboud and Kamala Ibrahim Ishag at the Serpentine. Berthe Morisot at Dulwich Picture Gallery. Marina Abramovic in Oxford, Howardena Pindell and Lucie Rie in Cambridge. Sarah Biffin at the Philip Mould Gallery. Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Lubaina Himid, Cornelia Parker, Yayoi Kusama, Maria Bartuszova, Magdalena Abakanowicz, Cecilia Vicuña and Hilma af Klint (with second billing for Mondrian) at Tates Britain and Modern.

Édouard Manet might scrape in, but only in the context of Eva Gonzalès. Dante Gabriel Rossetti is permitted, but only when chaperoned by Christina Rossetti and Elizabeth Siddal. Picasso is allowed under sufferance through the lens of Lee Miller.

Planning a mini-break this weekend? Take in Gwen John, liberated from her brother Augustus and lover Auguste Rodin, at Pallant House in Chichester. Fly to Dublin for Lavinia Fontana (*Trailblazer, Rule Breaker*) at the National Gallery of Ireland. Lose yourself in Beatriz Milhazes's pinwheeling abstracts at Turner Contemporary in Margate. Enjoy being a girl.

If you really want to be radically countercultural in 2023, you mount an exhibition by a big-swinging-maulstick artist from the canon. Hello Frans Hals — stale, hale, male and coming to the National Gallery this September. As for the contemporary art scene, I keep reading that the worst thing you can be in publishing is a young white man with a novel to sell — being a young white man with a canvas to hang isn't much better.

Before you set the winged harpies on me, I am being selective. The past year has also given us Winslow Homer, MK Ciurlionis, Peter Doig, Milton Avery, Walter Sickert, Henry Fuseli and so on. *After Impressionism* at the National Gallery has drummed up a few women — more than such a show would have bothered with five years before — but it is still mostly the top boys: Monet, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Gauguin. You may also reasonably say that after however many millennia of oppression — bet the cave chaps always nabbed the smoothest stretch of wall for their bison — it's high time the girls got a look-in. But not a free pass.

To my eyes, though I am but a woman and my eyes are weak, Artemisia Gentileschi is not Caravaggio. When she is good she is very, very good, and when she is bad she is stolid. There are convincing historical and biographical arguments for why Gentileschi hasn't the skill, the power, the darkness of Caravaggio. Let us hear them. But let's not pretend she never painted a dud picture.



GETTY IMAGES

Artemisia Gentileschi "is not Caravaggio"

The Tate Britain rehang shows more female artists than ever before. Analysis of style and composition are unfashionable, but I'd be grateful to a curator who could articulate why a portrait by Joan Carlile, while nice to have, doesn't have quite the same oomph as a portrait by Anthony van Dyck.

The way we talk about female artists is increasingly undiscriminating. A combination of hagiography, hyperbole and hip-hip-hurrah boosterism. Listen to various podcasts or follow the Instagram accounts devoted to female artists and you might think that every woman who ever picked up a palette knife was a Titian, a Rembrandt or a Vermeer. The brilliant Judith Leyster. The incredible Frida Kahlo. The amazing Mary Cassatt. The language of likes — "OMG you look so freaking hot, I love you babes, heart emoji" — has gushed its way into art history.

If I am moved to be even the teensiest bit critical of, say, Schneemann, I feel at best unsisterly (only one dainty step away from bitchy) and at worst a traitor to my sex. I can just about get away with it, but I have had several sotto voce conversations with usually pugnacious male arts journalists who confess that they feel they can't go hard on a female artist — or if they do, they get their wives to vet their copy first.

Two of the exhibitions I most enjoyed last year were by women — Hicks at Hepworth Wakefield and Olga de Amaral at the Lisson Gallery — and two of the shows I liked least were by Schneemann and Abramovic. I'm not against female artists, only against the idea that they are beyond reproach. They can't all be good, all of the time. Even Sappho nods.

Richard Morrison is away

A museum of art and science

At any time of day, half-term or term time, queues snake and helix round the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum in South Kensington. At the neighbouring V&A you can always walk in. We need a National Museum of the Art of Science. Not in London. Somewhere north of Watford Gap.

It would bring the two cultures — art and science — together under one roof. You could celebrate the pioneering work of women (yes, them again), artist-scientists such as the German entomologist, naturalist and illustrator Maria Merian, and Anna Atkins, whose blue and white cyanotype sun-prints of ferns and algae have just been published by Taschen. Kew could spare a few of Marianne North's paintings of pitcher plants, monkeys and mangosteens. You could have Ernst Haeckel's squid, Albertus Seba's serpents and Beatrix Potter's fungi. Everything under the sun and above the mountaintops.

The Full Monty

The 1997 film exposed the impact of Sheffield's steel mills closing. The new TV series shows full-scale societal collapse, its stars tell Andrew Billen

The biggest British film comedy of the Nineties, *The Full Monty*, ends with a freeze-frame that is impossible to un-remember even after a quarter of a century. Egged on by hundreds of semi-hysterical women, six not particularly fit former Sheffield steel men have become strippers for one night only. Robbed of much dignity by the deindustrialisation of northern England, they give away what is left of it by whipping off the police hats covering their genitals.

"When the hats went away, it was like scoring a goal at Hampden [Park stadium]. The reaction was … well, I'll never forget that moment," says Robert Carlyle, who played Gaz, the skint chancer who hit on a way to make some money by dreaming up the stunt. The scene was shot over two and a half days and had taken so long that the invited local audience began to think the final reveal would never happen. When it finally did, the six actors were told to hold the moment of full-frontal for ten seconds: "The longest ten seconds of my life."

Carlyle's co-star and fellow strip artiste, Mark Addy, recalls his shock at being told the sequence would be filmed on a "closed" set of technicians — "plus 400 extras". "It was an extraordinary experience. It's kind of burnt into my memory, and not necessarily in a good way," he says.

Shot for a little over £2 million, *The Full Monty* became the highest-grossing British film to that date, and its final frame was a cinematic triumph that left audiences on a high. But what was our working-class heroes' future once the glorious moment unfroze? Disney+ viewers are about to find out. Thanks to a stage production and ITV's celebrity stripping specials, *The Full Monty* has never quite disappeared, but the new series is our first chance to discover the fortunes of the six friends. They are played by the original actors, who, according to the film's creator, Simon Beaufoy, slipped into their roles as if they were putting on a "favourite coat" (or perhaps tearing it off).

It is not the same story again. Whereas the film was plot-led, the series favours character development. I also have to report that there is no stripping this time — unless you count the gang's slow unveiling of their true feelings about where they are, and who they have become.

The redundant steel workers' intervening years have been largely about survival. The show's opening sequence is a montage from the film followed by sardonic images of the time between then and now: seven prime ministers and "eight northern regeneration policies". It is followed by a glimpse of the now-abandoned working men's club that hosted the striptease. Outside, Carlyle's Gaz emerges from a skip from which he is liberating a mattress.

Beaufoy, who could not speak directly to me because he is observing the Hollywood writers' strike, told Disney's publicists beforehand that this was a good moment to revisit a story of social crisis. This time Sheffield's hardship is caused, he said, not by the closure of steel mills but an "invisible destruction" of the social fabric: "We were staring down the barrel of the endless incompetence of another series of Conservative governments who were doing a similar but different job of destroying the country's infrastructure."

Whereas the film left its socialism understated, Beaufoy and his series co-writer, Alice Nutter, formerly of the anarcho-punk band Chumbawamba, now bring its political message to the fore. This is a Sheffield where school ceilings collapse, undertakers offer paupers' graves and adults die of malnutrition. The final episode features a rendition of *Nina Cried Power*, a protest song that hails Nina Simone, John Lennon and Marvin Gaye. Ron DeSantis, the governor of Florida, who is feuding with a seemingly liberal Disney Corporation, will find little to reassure him in this opinionated production. Yet despite the politics, it is still the personalities we follow, and we do so because we still love them.

Carlyle, speaking to me from his home in Canada, identifies the difficulties in being Gaz, a man "with a heart the size of a bus". With two semi-estranged children from different relationships behind him, he finds himself of no fixed abode. It is not just the lack of money, Carlyle says.

> **That strip scene is kind of burnt into my memory, not in a good way**

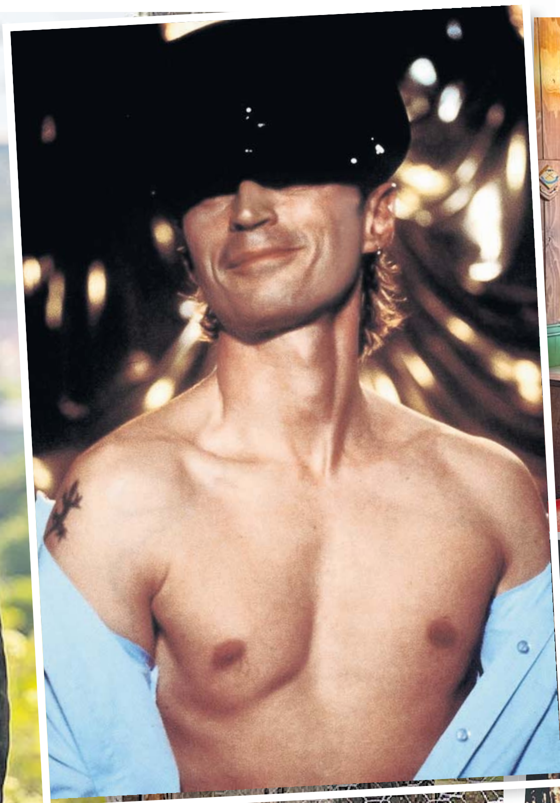
"I think that the problem that goes deeper with Gaz is that he's still a kid. How can you take care of children when you're still a kid yourself? Actually, during the series, he says, 'I'm a kid. I break everything I touch.' I remember playing that scene and really feeling that moment and thinking that's probably true of a lot of men. They don't really face up to their responsibilities."

Unlike Gaz, Addy's character, Dave, does have a job, as a school caretaker, but Jean, now his wife, has been on a journey, from Co-op cashier to head teacher. An intellectual gap has

is back — and it's darker than ever

COVER: 20TH CENTURY FOX VIA ALAMY; FOX/KOBAL/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK. BEN BLACKALL/DISNEY+; ALAMY









opened between them, and also a chasm caused by the death of their infant son, a tragedy neither can address and which leaves their marriage struggling.

"Dave hasn't been spurred on to achieve anything intellectually" says Addy. "He'll fix the lawnmower, potter about in his shed, and in a way, that's what he's done all his life. But he is burying his head in the sand. He does not want that difficult conversation."

The *Full Monty* gang, he notes, are bewildered by modern life, from its digital complexity to its intolerance of sexism. Even their favourite café, Big Baps, needs to be renamed. The show's teenage characters are frequently embarrassed. Addy shares his character's unease. "The realisation that I'm a dinosaur hits pretty hard. Every facet of modern life is so different from a quarter of a century ago. You're just looking at photographs from the Eighties and you go, 'Wow! First off, they're mostly hard copies!' It's a very different world. The series covers a lot of this ground."

Nutter, also speaking before the strike, noted: "My dad was a white working-class Tory, but no matter how low he was down the totem pole, he was always a man. He was always a white man, and he had more power than everybody else." That power, she thinks, has ebbed.

Yet the series does not suggest that white working-class attitudes are immutable. Whereas in the 1997 film, two gay characters stole a kiss in private, now Lomper, played by Steve Huison, is running Big Baps with his husband, Dennis (Paul Clayton). (Hugo Speer, who played his love interest, Guy, was fired by Disney after an "allegation of inappropriate conduct" on set — which he denies — but still has some scenes in the show.)

Jean is once more played by Lesley Sharp. Her role in the movie was telling but small, but the series's expanded universe includes a complex female friendship between Jean and her best friend, an art teacher. Nevertheless, at the heart of Jean's story is her marriage. Once mutually supportive (in the film Dave asks who would want to see his body, and Jean replies that she would), they now carry the burden of their bereavement separately.

"They've retreated to their own separate places to deal with that," Sharp says. "What you get in this series is that actually you can't continue to live like that, not harmoniously. You have to deal with it somehow. They've reached a point where they can't go on as they are."

Yet Sharp pushes back when I suggest the series shows a community of uneducated working-class men stranded by economic change. "There are a lot of people who are doing jobs that aren't fancy-schmancy. It's about the way you live your life. I would counter what you're saying, framing their lives as depressing or downbeat. It might not be the most financially, spiritually, emotionally validated and enriched and supported community in the UK, but in spite of that, the people who live there approach their lives with wit, warmth, humour, intelligence, engagement, and those things are really important. I would argue that communities like that make up the majority of the UK, north and south. That community is really invested in where it lives. Sheffield is very proud of being Sheffield."

Above left: Robert Carlyle in the new series and, top, in the original film. Above right, from top: Mark Addy, Paul Barber and Miles Jupp in the series; Tom Wilkinson, Hugo Speer and Addy in the film. Below: Lesley Sharp reprises her role as Jean



Of the three cast members I speak to, Sharp says she loved the original shoot; Addy, then new to films, says he had nothing to compare it with; and Carlyle says he hated it. Far too much footage was filmed; a scene that was funny at 8am was no longer as funny 12 hours later. After "six weeks of boredom", he felt the film was doomed to go straight to video and believes it would have, had it not been severely edited.

"The hero in this instance was the producer Uberto Pasolini, who is now the producer on the series," he says. "Uberto brought in a wonderful editor, Nick Moore, and Nick and Uberto cut together the film you saw. From being this close to being gone forevermore, it became the highest-grossing British film of all time."

By *The Full Monty*'s release, Carlyle was already famous for his terrifying Begbie in *Trainspotting*. "Nevertheless, the phenomenon that *The Full Monty* became is something that I'll be grateful for, to be honest, my whole life. It's given me a career."

It also helped to change his attitude to fame, to which, I observed in an interview at the time, he seemed "temperamentally ill-suited".

"That line has really stuck with me for my whole life," he says, to my surprise. "And you know something? You were absolutely right. And I think that I've become more suited for fame." But how? "Because you get older and you get wiser." He is now 62, and still married to Anastasia Shirley, with whom he had recently got together when we met. They have three children and live in Vancouver, where he moved for work reasons.

Addy, 58, believes he owes *The Full Monty* even more. He had worked in theatre for a decade after drama school, and was disappointed when a successful two-man show in which he toured was recast with TV names for its London run. "So I was gradually working my way up on the TV side and then *Full Monty* came along and kind of blew the doors off really. It changed everything."

Sharp, whose astonishing subsequent career has encompassed *Scott & Bailey* and the lead in a Sophocles tragedy at the National Theatre, had by *The Full Monty* worked with Jim Cartwright, Stephen Poliakoff and Jimmy McGovern. "I'm still working and it's still going on. It's great," she says modestly. Like Carlyle, she and Addy remain with their partners of 26 years ago.

It is clearly a special film for the three, and to Beaufoy, who went on to win an Oscar for *Slumdog Millionaire* in 2008. He believes the new series is also something special. Television, he thinks, has become "uber-aspirational", with working-class people confined to soaps where they behave "incredibly badly" to one another. "I get more insight into the working-class world from watching *Gogglebox* than I do from watching anything on the box," he has said.

The *Full Monty* series is welcome then, and, apparently, welcome in Sheffield too. "They really love it so much," says Carlyle. "Two different people said exactly the same thing to me, two people who were just watching filming. They said, 'Oh Robert, thanks for coming back.'

"And, oh my God, I was quite emotional when I heard that."

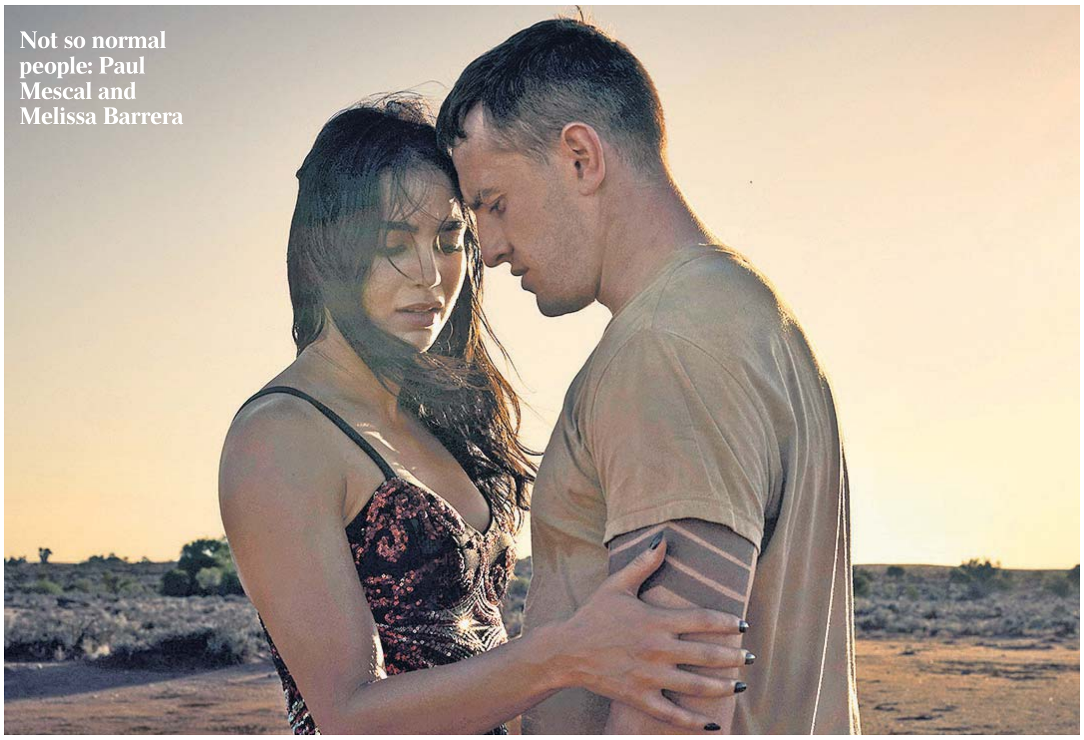
All episodes of *The Full Monty* will be available on Disney+ from June 14

THE CRITICS

And the golden boy can dance

Paul Mescal does a decent paso doble in a strange take on Bizet's opera, says Kevin Maher

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS/ENTERTAINMENT PICTURES VIA ALAMY



Not so normal people: Paul Mescal and Melissa Barrera

If "Garbo Talks!" was the sexy marketing hook that brought the masses to *Anna Christie* (1930), then the makers of this literary adaptation could do worse than "Mescal Dances!" Yes, it takes nearly 100 minutes to arrive, but the 27-year-old *Aftersun* star does eventually fling himself around some Californian scrubland with the earnest proficiency of a *Strictly Come Dancing* star midway through the couple's choice medley. His partner is Melissa Barrera (*In the Heights*) who's a natural mover and carries the scene. She's playing a re-imagined Carmen, who is not the seductress from Georges Bizet but a more delicate soul "inspired by" the Prosper Mérimée novel upon which the opera was based. She does not drive men to murder but she does, in this dance version, make them fake a half-decent paso doble.

The film is the brainchild of Benjamin Millepied (aka Mr Natalie Portman), a French choreographer who has transposed the action to Mexico and LA. Millepied has muted the operatic passions in favour of a lovers-on-the-lam yarn that's fully at the service of the original score of Nicholas Britell, the composer of *Succession*. As Adrian (Mescal), a former US marine, and Carmen, an illegal immigrant, flee from the law (there is an early shoot-out), their journey through southern California is marked by several pitstops for Carmen's flamenco-inspired routines and by the eerie choral chanting that fills the soundtrack. Britell's music rises and falls without warning and is even used, bizarrely, while Adrian is enjoying a quick toilet break next to a dusty highway. Later on, curiously, Rossy de Palma will pop up as a nightclub owner who leers at Adrian and coos, "He looks like he has a good pee pee, doesn't he?"

It is indeed a strange film, but not a bad one. Mescal does "sensitive masculinity" like no one else — he is, according to Carmen, "a real man". The movie seems to be about subverting expectations and reminds us at every juncture that this project is concerned with the parameters of dance, not drama.
In cinemas

Carmen
15, 117min
★★★☆☆

Reality
12, 82min
★★★★☆

Before the true-life story of the US whistleblower Reality Winner appears in a Hollywood satire, it is first presented in this astounding docudrama from the playwright Tina Satter. Sydney Sweeney is riveting as the former intelligence operative who was sentenced to five years in prison for leaking a single confidential document about Russian interference in the 2016 presidential elections.

The high-tension screenplay is in verbatim format, culled from interrogation transcripts recorded by the FBI in 2017, and Sweeney's performance of hidden guilt under pressure is the film's secret weapon.
In cinemas

The Boogeyman
15, 99min
★★☆☆☆

A 1973 Stephen King short story is the basis for this horror yawn. Chris Messina plays a grieving husband and father so distraught after the death of his wife, and so terrified by the prospect of raising his two daughters alone, that he essentially conjures a shadowy humanoid killer.

Rob Savage, the British director of the low-budget "live-streaming" horrors *Host* and *Dashcam*, is handed the poisoned chalice of a glossy Hollywood production coupled to a truly underwhelming screenplay from the writers of *A Quiet Place* and *Black Swan*. The results, inevitably, are disappointing.
In cinemas

The Old Man Movie: Lactopalypse
15, 88min
★★★☆☆

This anarchic Estonian stop-motion feature unfolds like an Aardman Animations fever dream, but with all the folksiness replaced by scatological obsession.



Scatological surrealism: The Old Man Movie

The grotesque fable follows an aged farmer and his grandchildren on a surreal search for a missing dairy cow. The poop humour does become slightly wearing, yet there is a winning sweetness here from the co-writers and directors Oskar Lehemaa and Mikk Magi. And how can you not warm to a movie with the line "I learnt something important inside that bear's ass"?
In cinemas

Mad About the Boy: The Noël Coward Story
12, 91min
★★★★☆

A rigidly linear chronology and a surfeit of biographical incident are the only issues that trouble this engrossing documentary. Rupert Everett provides mellifluous diary readings and Alan Cumming narrates the life, while archive interviewees include Laurence Olivier and John Mills.

Yet it's the central contradictions in Coward's life that drive the film: an uneducated pauper who adopted the mask of affluent sophistication, and a closeted gay man who became a heterosexual sex symbol at a time when homosexuality was illegal. An expansive look at a giant talent.
In cinemas

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Visual dazzle: Miles Morales/Spider-Man, voiced by Shameik Moore

A Spidey with postmodern pizzazz

the big film

This latest iteration plays cleverly with the limits of comic-book adaptations, says Kevin Maher

Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse
PG, 140min
★★★★☆

There's rarely been a more fascinating time to be a comic-book-movie watcher. This previously dominant genre, which peaked with the pre-pandemic double bill of *Avengers: Infinity War* and *Endgame*, is in disarray. Most of the current crop are critically reviled and commercially underwhelming (see *Thor: Love and Thunder* or *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania*). Some of them, such as *Black Adam* and *Shazam! Fury of the Gods*, have been egregious box-office bombs. Others, such as the long-awaited *Man of Steel 2*, have been cancelled, while the near-complete $90 million *Batgirl* was simply deemed unworthy of release.

Meanwhile, global audiences appear to be exchanging the overfamiliar tedium of spandex-clad super-berks for the novelties of dramatic coherence and empathetic characters — *Top Gun: Maverick* and *Avatar: The Way of Water* were the two biggest worldwide hits of 2022.

And so each new comic-book movie that's released comes with a certain ghoulish buzz. Is it the definitive sign of a genre in its death throes? Or is it a last burst of creativity from a tired format with nothing left to lose? *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* is both of these things. It's a cartoon feature about the limits of comic-book storytelling, but it's also a movie that delights in defining those limits.

It's set in a multiverse of apparently endless iterations of Spider-Man (280 versions, say the film-makers), including the dinosaur Spider-Man, the robot Spider-Man, the British punk Spider-Man (Daniel Kaluuya), the Indian Spider-Man (Karan Soni), the pregnant Spider-Woman (Issa Rae) and the hooded Spider-Woman, aka Gwen Stacy (Hailee Steinfeld).

The protagonist, as in the Oscar-winning first instalment, *Into the Spider-Verse*, is mild-mannered Miles Morales (Shameik Moore), the Afro-Latino Spider-Man (his mother is Puerto Rican, his father African American). And yet all of these varied spider-people are, we soon learn, defined by the restrictive conventions of the original Spider-Man narrative or, as the characters themselves refer to it, "the canon events".

These include the initial acquisition of superpowers, the traumatic yet emotionally galvanising loss of a close relative and the development of a pivotal romantic relationship.

"In every other universe Gwen Stacy and Spider-Man get together and it doesn't end well," notes Steinfeld's Stacy in a key scene set on the Williamsburg Savings Bank Tower in Brooklyn, in explaining her decision to avoid a romantic entente with Morales. There's a hint of a meditation on free will here — one of the co-directors, Kemp Powers, is behind Pixar's deeply poignant *Soul*. But it's mostly a complaint about format, and about the comic-book certainties of the movie within which Stacy is trapped.

The wider plot, too, see Morales pinging between Spider-Verses, seemingly on the trail of an interdimensional uber-villain called the Spot (Jason Schwartzman). But at every turn he is faced with the limitations of his own story and the requirement to stay true to those canon events. Will he, for instance, let a key character die just because that's the way it always happens in Spider-Man lore?

Around this question sits a movie of outstanding visual dazzle. It rarely draws breath between set pieces, and creates distinct and spectacular environments for each separate Spider-Verse. The boldest belongs to Stacy, depicted in pink and turquoise watercolours that appear to flow down the frame and accentuate the often maudlin mood around her. When she's forced to part from her beloved father, the slowly falling colours are like the "tears" of light and shadow that famously fall down the face of Perry Smith (Robert Blake) during the climax of *In Cold Blood*. Stacy's backstory, revealed early on, is the most impactful in the film and (no spoilers) takes Wilde's idea of killing the thing you love to a painfully literal place.

There are also some lovely gags in the densely textured script, co-written by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller (*The Lego Movie*) with Dave Callaham, that include a fabulous line about Banksy, as well as a throwaway moment where Pavitr Prabhakar, the Indian Spider-Man, can barely contain his fury at the popularisation of the phrase "chai tea" — "That's like saying 'coffee coffee'!"

On the downside, Schwartzman's villain is wearily derivative, while Morales's parents are bland Disney love-bombers. Plus the greedy closing set-up for the next sequel, *Beyond the Spider-Verse*, is disappointingly crass and unworthy of all the postmodern pizzazz that's come before it.

Comic-book movies are dead, it seems to say. But not until the next one of these.
In cinemas

classic film of the week

Thelma & Louise (1991)
15, 129min
★★★★★

Not just a flawless road movie about female friends fleeing the law, this Ridley Scott classic is a salutary lesson in casting "failures". It was initially a vehicle for Michelle Pfeiffer and Jodie Foster before being passed on to Meryl Streep (as Louise) and Goldie Hawn (Thelma). Yet Streep didn't like that iconic double-suicide ending, and so Scott opted for the profoundly perfect Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis.

Even more bizarre, George Clooney auditioned (five times, allegedly) for the role that made Brad Pitt's career — the friendly bank robber JD.



Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis

And Scott was not originally attached as director. He was drawn to the novice screenwriter Callie Khouri's tale of modern outlaw women and agreed to be the film's producer. He only came on board as director when a fellow Hollywood film-maker looked at the script and said, "Oh, it's small." Scott's reply? "No! It's epic!" How right he was.
In cinemas

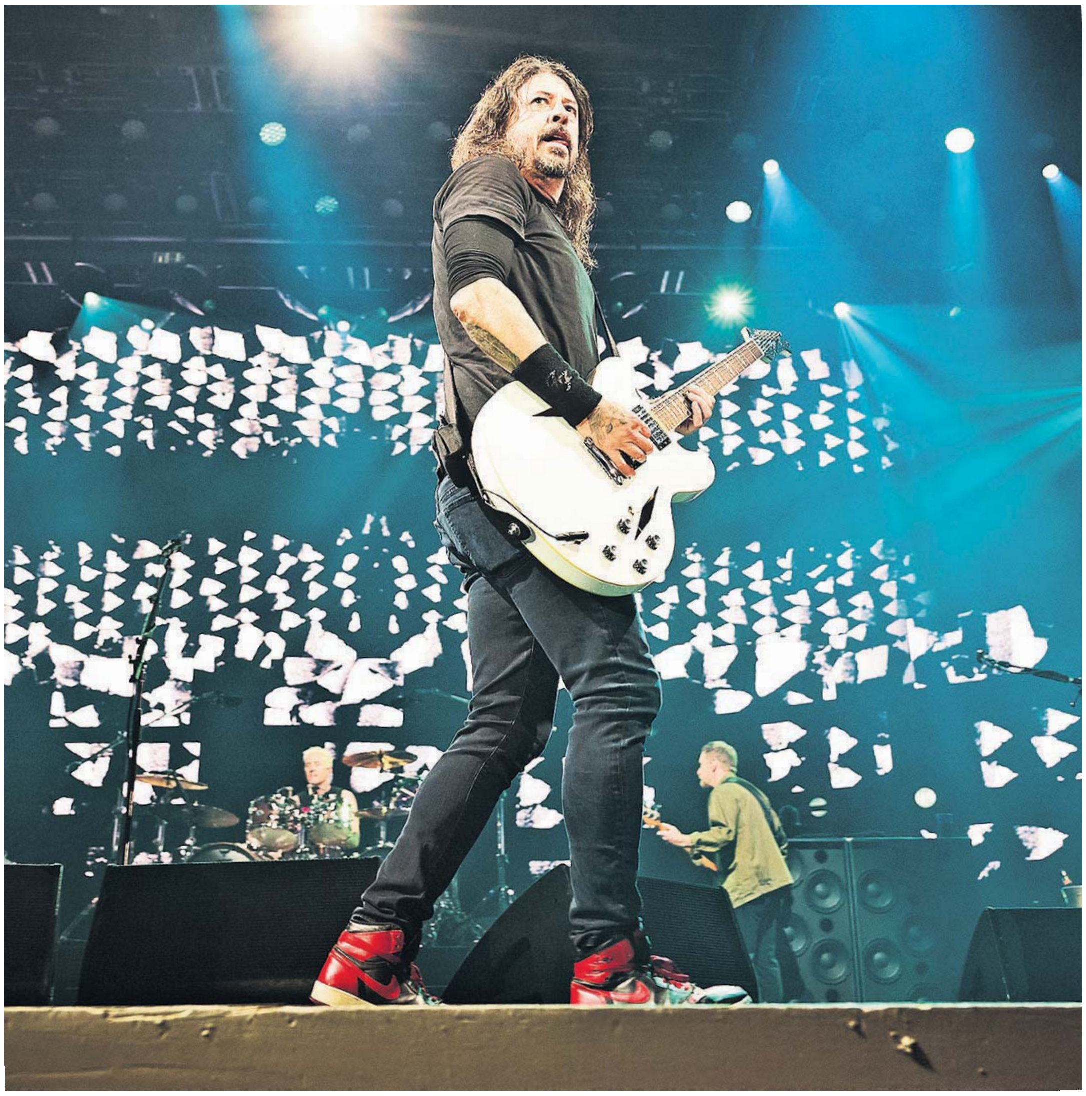
music reviews

Grief is a thing with rock riffs

Dave Grohl's response to the deaths of his mother and the Foo Fighters' drummer moves

Will Hodgkinson

SCARLET PAGE



Albums about grief and loss tend, unsurprisingly, to be downbeat. Neil Young dealt with the drug deaths of a band member and a roadie by capturing a nihilistic, beaten spirit on *Tonight's the Night*. Bruce Springsteen left behind the positivity of earlier hits to articulate the futility of death on the mostly acoustic *Nebraska*. Sufjan Stevens evoked the conflicted emotions of losing a beloved but difficult mother on *Carrie & Lowell*. Upbeat, muscular, radio-friendly rock does not typically form a backdrop to songs about death. But that's what the Foo Fighters have done, following the loss of their drummer Taylor Hawkins and Dave Grohl's mother. It's surprisingly moving.

"It came in a flash. It came out of nowhere," roars Grohl on *Rescued*. That can only be interpreted as a response to the news that Hawkins, who overdosed on heroin in 2001 but had for years seemed a smiling figure of all-American health, died in March 2022 in Colombia before a concert. There is nothing soft or reflective about the song: after a strummed acoustic guitar introduction, it builds up and up until it enters the realms of hardcore punk. *Under You* applies a classic rock riff, overdriven and immediate, to a song about coming to terms with never being able to see someone again. It is straightforward and visceral — there seems to have been little second-guessing. Grohl has responded to death in the way he

pop

Foo Fighters
But Here We Are
Sony
★★★★☆

knows: by plugging in and rocking out.

There is another side to the album: it is Beatles-esque and gently psychedelic. "I had a vision of you. And just like that I was left to live without it," sings Grohl, through phased vocal effects and a wall of guitars, on *The Glass*. *Beyond Me* puts a single piano note against Grohl reflecting, in unusually subdued tones, about how everything we love must grow old, we "must release what you hold dear … or so I hear". He is not presenting nuggets of wisdom as fact, but suggesting he is as much at sea as the rest of us.

Best of all is *The Teacher*, a ten-minute epic about life, death and what lies beyond that combines shades of the Blue Oyster Cult's *Don't Fear the Reaper* and mid-Seventies Pink Floyd with the Foo Fighters' own signature thudding rock. The usual criticism levelled at the Foos is that Grohl left behind the troubled world of his old band Nirvana for uncomplicated arena rock, but here that style allows him to deal in an unpretentious fashion with the reality of losing your loved ones. It shows the Foo Fighters at their best.

Jake Shears
Last Man Dancing
Mute
★★★☆☆

As the frontman of Scissor Sisters, Jake Shears forged a successful coalition of Elton John-style rock and Seventies disco, filtered through the culture he discovered while working as a dancer in New York gay bars in the early Noughties. Now comes a dance music album with some starry cameos: Kylie Minogue brings her breathy purr to *Voices* and the former queen of the workout Jane Fonda pops up on the Giorgio Moroder-like *Radio Eyes*. None of this is hugely original — *Devil Came Down the Dancefloor* sails dangerously close to Grace Jones's *Pull Up to the Bumper* — but it's a fun excursion into disco fantasia.

Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds
Council Skies
Sour Mash
★★★★★

As the Oasis reunion doomsday clock moves closer towards midnight, the older Gallagher returns with his most Oasis-like album yet. There are the diversions that have peppered his solo releases — the moody *Pretty Boy* has a drum machine — but also melancholy, hopefulness and soaring abandon. The difference is that it is filtered through the ravages of age. *Dead to the World* is beautiful, an uncertain lament with shades of the Zombies' *Odessey and Oracle*; *Open the Door, See What You Find* joyfully employs Beatles-like orchestration; and *Easy Now* paints a picture of strangers in the night in the rousing style of *Don't Look Back in Anger*. It's a reminder of why Oasis, using a few recycled T. Rex riffs and a lot of attitude, became one of the biggest bands of the Nineties, and it's a belter.



Tim Arnold
Super Connected
Press On Vinyl
★★★★☆

Tim Arnold was the singer in the Nineties Britpop band Jocasta, led a high-profile Save Soho campaign and has managed to get himself banned from Apple with his new album, a rock opera about the way technology has taken over our lives and scrambled our brains.

There are shades of Bowie to the urgent melodrama of *Everything Entertains*, while *Send More Light* is straight out of a Broadway musical; Stephen Fry pops up on a fake YouTube-style commercial break and the subject matter — the loneliness of the digital landscape, intensified by Arnold's autism — is surprisingly uncharted. An old-fashioned album about futuristic problems, this is worth your attention.

Hear Harry's three hours of Handelian bliss

Listening to this recording of Handel's *Serse* (first performed in 1738), a newcomer to the field may feel in a pickle. Three of the leading characters have names beginning with A and ending in E. Confusing. Three of the cast are mezzo-sopranos, although, given this is a baroque opera, that's no gauge of a character's sex. Worst of all, the documentation carries the libretto but no plot synopsis. Who and what are these people? What precisely is going on?

The penny should eventually drop: everyone is caught up in the complicated love tangle surrounding the Persian ruler Xerxes I, just when he's trying to conquer Greece, circa 480BC. But even when you're scratching your head, two things remain abundantly clear. Handel's music is wonderfully virile and dramatic. So are the performances from the director Harry Bicket's English Concert and the excellent soloists lined up for the group's latest dive into Handel's operatic wonderland.

The opening overture is exciting enough, while the accompaniments make me long to join the violinists leaping with such spirit alongside the singers, driving the music forward. Emily D'Angelo's mezzo is the first voice we hear, robust and vibrant, fitting enough for the headstrong Xerxes. The singer who really excels, though, is Lucy Crowe, radiating steadfast purity of tone as Romilda, the unfortunate object of Xerxes's obsession. Mary Bevan is almost as good as Atalanta, Romilda's flirty sister. The other leads — Paula

classical

Harry Bicket
Serse
Linn Records
★★★★★

Daniel Hope
Music for a New Century
Deutsche Grammophon
★★☆☆☆

Murrihy, William Dazeley, Daniela Mack and Neal Davies — never disappoint, whatever this opera's mood: comical or tender, tragic or absurd. It lasts just under three hours.

Music for a New Century, a compendium of pieces championed by the San Francisco-based New Century Chamber Orchestra, is far shorter, though it may not feel so during the arpeggiated desert of Philip Glass's Piano Concerto No 3, the squawks and clatter of Tan Dun's Double Concerto or the dead neoclassical gestures of Jake Heggie's *Overture*. The orchestra's director, Daniel Hope, eventually brings out his violin for something worthwhile with Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Lament*. But if this otherwise drab lot really represents 21st-century fare, I'm swerving back to the 18th.
Geoff Brown

first night

pop

Herb Alpert

Ronnie Scott's, W1

★★★★☆

Back in 1965, Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass released an album called *Whipped Cream & Other Delights*. It outsold the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Frank Sinatra. Helped by a cover featuring the model Dolores Erickson naked but for the fluffy dairy product of the title — actually shaving foam — the album made the trumpeter synonymous with a certain kind of easy listening: jazzy, sophisticated, not to be taken too seriously. All these years later, 88-year-old Alpert and his singer wife, Lani Hall, took up a much delayed residency at Ronnie Scott's that continued in that 1960s lounge jazz tradition: a nostalgic reminder of what seemed, through the lens of Alpert's music, at least, like a gentler time.

Backed by a tight band made up of a drummer, a bassist and a pianist, Alpert and Hall sat centre stage, talked about their great love for one another and reminded us why this kind of music became so ubiquitous throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Alpert played in a unique style, tinged with mariachi music but with a lightness of touch, on early favourites *The Lonely Bull* and *Tijuana Taxi*. Hall spent her formative years as a singer for the Brazilian band leader Sergio Mendes, whose bossa nova-influenced renditions of the pop hits of the day mirrored Alpert's approach, and she sang a medley of Mendes favourites with charismatic ease: *The Fool on the Hill*, *The Look of Love* and Jorge Ben's masterful samba *Mas Que Nada*.

This was music that spoke of a world without problems, presented in a style that emphasised its escapist charm, but it would be wrong to equate that with lack of depth. The yearning beauty of the Beatles' *Something* — included because George Harrison was involved with Alpert's A&M Records to the extent that he married the label's secretary Olivia — was captured with subtlety on trumpet, while Bill Withers's *Ain't No Sunshine* gave the band members a chance for some extended improvising. Barry Manilow's *Copacabana* was a step into supper club cheesiness too far, but for the most part this was easy listening as high art. "I don't mean to sound spiritual, but this is why I'm here," Alpert said about why he was still on the road at 88. It was uplifting — in a smooth kind of way.

Will Hodgkinson

To tomorrow

CLIVE BARDA



Johannes Kammler as Figaro, Katie Bray as Rosina and Andrew Stenson as Count Almaviva

Razor-sharp Rossini

Douglas Boyd conducts a brilliantly fresh reading of a classic, says Neil Fisher

opera

Il barbiere di Siviglia

Garsington, Wormsley

★★★★☆

Garsington Opera's last Rossini show was a camp, crude and ultimately irresistible production of *Le comte Ory*. It was eyes on stalks time as the cast stripped off or did unmentionable things with fruit. The music suffered a bit.

Things are reversed in the festival's new production of Rossini's most beloved comedy. The staging by Christopher Luscombe looks stylish (and expensive), but the engine of its success really comes from the pit, where Garsington's artistic director, Douglas Boyd, leads the English Concert in a freshly minted reading of the score.

The sound from this period-instrument band is rawer than you might expect for this repertoire, but it's consistently arresting, as if layers of grime have been prised off. The overture cuts as close as the barber's razor, and Boyd's hyper-attentive work with the strings — lithe, unpredictable phrasing, sharp staccato accents — is exhilarating without being precious. The ensembles are bubbly. To wake us up after the dinner interval, Boyd throws in Rossini's overture to *Sigismondo* and it's a hit.

Back on stage, the detailed 1930s sets by Simon Higlett are ravishing. There's no killer reason to put us in Seville in this period (the justification is that the World's Fair took place in the city from 1929 to 1930), but Figaro the barber's shopfront is a delight, and Dr Bartolo's glamorous art deco mansion, which swivels from outside to inside depending on where the action takes place, is like something out of a Fred and Ginger screen musical. That feels out of sync with the social hierarchies normally in play in *Barbiere* — the miserly doctor versus the moneyed aristocrat Almaviva — but it does mean that Katie Bray's Rosina can wear some dreamy frocks.

Luscombe's direction is attentive and the set pieces all work nicely, but there are no belly laughs. Sometimes you sense Richard Burkhard's impeccably delivered Bartolo straining at the comic leash, and the characterisation of the barber himself doesn't give the smooth-voiced baritone Johannes Kammler much to draw on either.

Still, it's never less than sunny Rossini from this cast. Burkhard has a nice double act against Callum Thorpe's young fogey of a Basilio, whose "Calumny" aria is an excellent blast of bluster. The tenor Andrew Stenson is a likeable Almaviva, if a bit sketchy around the coloratura, and Bray's smoky mezzo wraps itself happily around Rosina's indignation. Seizing her single aria by the throat, Josephine Goddard impresses as Berta, the irascible maid.

To July 22, garsingtonopera.org

comedy

Brown Girls Do It Too

Soho Theatre, W1

★★★☆☆

Podcasts, once a private pursuit, are increasingly lucrative live propositions, drawing sizeable crowds to match. Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart's *The Rest Is Politics* filled the London Palladium for two nights in March, and *Off Menu* has sold out two nights at the Royal Albert Hall in October.

Mama Told Me Not to Come, the live spin-off from the BBC Sounds podcast *Brown Girls Do It Too* was a hit at Soho Theatre last year and then toured the country. It returns to Soho for an extended victory lap in front of a clearly devoted home crowd.

Poppy Jay and Rubina Pabani started their podcast in 2019 because they realised there were "no brown women talking about sex in the media". So they started talking, covering everything from sex toys and labiaplasty to pornography and egg donation and won podcast of the year at the British Podcast awards in 2020.

The live show combines the no-holds-barred chat of the podcast — be it the politics of masturbating over white men or pubic hair — with sketches, songs and audience interaction. Great effort has gone into making it a theatrical event. Sam Hodges and Aneesha Srinivasan direct, and Rosanna Vize's set is a charmingly chaotic teenage bedroom, all pink fluff and Peter Andre posters.

Jay and Pabani are warm and witty hosts. Dressed in acid-bright Adidas tracksuits, they come across like cool older sisters as they flit from topic to topic, as at home discussing *Bend It Like Beckham* as they are colourism. Their chemistry is easy even if their chat is often funnier than the sketches that break up the conversation and in which they re-enact orgasms and man a hotline for "race traitors".

Sex, they contend, is a vehicle for talking about absolutely everything else — race, their bodies, marriage, ageing, parenthood, their relationships with their parents.

It is the latter that ultimately gives the evening its emotional heft. We learn that Jay had an arranged marriage, which ended a decade ago, and her parents still don't know about her career. Pabani, who married a white man, no longer speaks to her father. As they read out letters to their families to pin-drop silence, it's clear that this show is far more than X-rated chat and banter. It's a radical act.

Alice Jones

To June 10, sohotheatre.com

theatre

Re-Member Me

Hampstead Theatre, NW3

★★★★☆



Dickie Beau's arresting take on Hamlet doesn't so much deconstruct the text as explode it before reassembling the pieces to create a work that's as haunting as it's ebullient. Whatever your take, this is bracingly, disconcertingly original: a meditation on mortality that includes mannequins and a glitter ball, a biting tribute to Shakespeare that starts with *Withnail and I* and climaxes with *Chariots of Fire*.

Beau, *left*, who began life as Richard Boyce, has been a leading light of the underground cabaret scene for more than a decade, carving his distinctive profile through lip-syncing routines to figures including Judy Garland and Marilyn Monroe. To channel Garland, he took the rage-filled recordings she made for her unfinished autobiography; to evoke Monroe, he turned to previously unreleased audio from her final interview. The result — *Blackouts: Twilights of the Idols* — was described by one journalist as "the drag show at the end of the world".

For *Re-Member Me* there's a similar unearthly poignancy to the way in which Beau has excavated interviews with famous Hamlets including Peter O'Toole and Ian McKellen. This show, which was performed at the Almeida in north London in 2017, on the same set where Andrew Scott played *Hamlet*, deploys loving irreverence to dissect the mythology surrounding the role and the way it's affected the actors playing it.

Jan-Willem van den Bosch's spiky production presents us with a movie screen onto which four versions of Beau's face are projected. Throughout the evening these projections enact lip-syncs of confessions from figures including the director Richard Eyre and Daniel Day-Lewis's dresser; below them Beau himself ramps up comedy and tragedy with a puppetry of dismembered mannequin parts.

There's fizzing gossip but also tenderness as Beau focuses increasingly on Ian Charleson, the actor who replaced Daniel Day-Lewis after the latter quit his role as Hamlet in 1989 at the National Theatre. Charleson (made famous by *Chariots of Fire*) would die of Aids just two months after the production ended, throwing the play's simultaneous connotations of mortality and immortality into stark relief.

Here a critic, unusually some might allege, made a positive difference: John Peter at The Sunday Times wrote Charleson's only review, thereby preserving the performance for posterity. It makes an extraordinary coda to an evening that along with the ghosts serves up a large helping of redemption.

Rachel Halliburton

To June 17, hampsteadtheatre.com

first night

opera

Rigoletto
Opera Holland Park, W8
★★☆☆☆

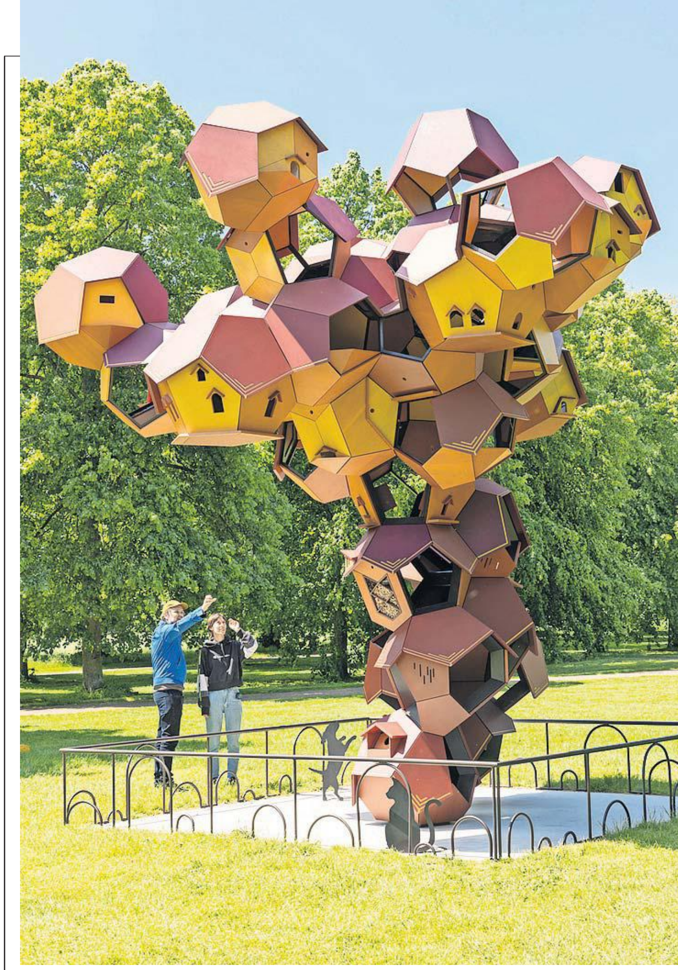
The decadent court of Mantua moves closer to home in Cecilia Stinton's production of Verdi's revenge tragedy, which opens the Opera Holland Park season. The "Duke" is an English toff, cut from the finest Bullingdon cloth, and the most redolent image of the night comes almost at the start, when he and his retinue form the classic line-up of the 1987 Oxford University photograph that starred Boris Johnson and David Cameron in their club togs.

Perhaps this would have been a more arresting or provocative show if Stinton had followed through on her premise and given us a present-day, Westminster *Rigoletto*. Almost 60 members of parliament are facing sexual misconduct claims. Power is still corrupting.

Here, however, the Jazz Age evoked by Neil Irish's designs feels like a tonal misfire, as does the university setting, sometimes unintentionally comic. Dons in gowns and mortarboards drift past, one of them Monterone, who will dish out a toothless curse to Rigoletto (and possibly a low 2:2). Chirpy flappers emerge from underneath the Duke's dining table while, offstage, he's abusing Gilda. They seem delighted to have spent the night with such horrible undergrads. The target of Stinton's ire is clear — the surtitled translation has been fiddled so that Rigoletto now refers to "brats" and "elites" — but it's not backed up with hard-hitting imagery to match.

A pity, because with stronger support Stephen Gadd's Rigoletto — here a kind of aged retainer in a leg brace (a war wound, one presumes) — would hit home more forcefully. The baritone was clearly ailing on first night, but nothing could prevent Rigoletto's servile bitterness seeping out of much poignant, detailed singing. Nothing, that is, except the lack of menace around him. Elsewhere, drifting intonation was a problem. It marred an overall elegantly sung performance by Alison Langer as Gilda, bedevilled Alessandro Scotto di Luzio's throatily delivered Duke and afflicted the City of London Sinfonia, otherwise flexibly and responsively steered by the conductor Lee Reynolds. Of the supporting cast, Hannah Pedley's Maddalena punched out best.
Neil Fisher
To June 24, operahollandpark.com

STUDIO TOMÁS SARACENO, 2023



Saraceno's creations include bird boxes in honeycomb formation

Beauty and the beasts

Once you get past the jargon this show is a breath of fresh air, says Laura Freeman

visual art

Tomás Saraceno
Serpentine Gallery, W2
★★★★☆

If we were to name the twisting language of the contemporary art world we might call it Serpentine, after the twin galleries in Kensington Gardens that speak such fluent jargon. There's plenty of it here: "situated and embodied form of knowledge", "looking to bioindicators", "investigates planetary mobility and ethics" and so on. Serpentine-speak aside, *Tomás Saraceno in Collaboration: Web(s) of Life* is a barmily charming and often beautiful exhibition from the Argentine artist.

The "collaborators" in Saraceno's *Web(s) of Life* are what the Serpentine calls "non-human species" and what normies might call birds, beasts and other relatives. In the first room we meet Bolle Pierre Tadios, a spider diviner from Somié in Cameroon. He consults the ngam dù, a spider that lives in the ground and can predict the future and answer questions, communicating by leaves cut with symbols.

These leaves, taken simply as abstract designs, are striking. The method is no more scientific than reading tea leaves, and the film that shows the spider predicting the next president of the United States (gnomic conclusion: "there will be a new president some way off") is delightfully weird. Ask a question of your own at nggamdu.org. If you're skittish about spiders — I'm not, but even I kept

> **If you're skittish about spiders, this is not for you**

feeling phantom legs on my neck — this is not the show for you.

In the next room spider's webs, intricate beyond human invention, are spotlit in darkness. They were woven in Saraceno's Berlin studio. Nothing Alexander Calder ever dreamt up comes close to the imagination and ingenuity of these filament-fine suspended sculptures. The webs are slightly kinetic, stirring in the slightest breeze. Magic.

And there is a breeze. The air conditioning is off, the windows are open. The exhibition extends its eight long legs into the park, where complex bird boxes in honeycomb formation nest in the eaves of the gallery. The various videos are powered by solar panels on the roof and by pedal bikes outside. There is nothing more tediously hypocritical than an exhibition lecturing you about the exigencies of climate change while playing videos on a loop. Saraceno sidesteps any such charge by asking you to step up and step on it.

Behind a fox-shaped door is a children's activity room — only children and the shortest of art critics allowed — with a table of bird squeakers and pencils and paper on which to draw your own cloud formations.

Visitors are encouraged to leave their mobile phones at reception to draw attention to the environmental damage caused by lithium mining in Argentina. When you leave you get your phone and an arachno-tarot card to take away. Look out for spiders in the long grass as you leave.
To September 10, serpentinegalleries.org

theatre

I, Daniel Blake
Northern Stage, Newcastle
★★★☆☆

The name Dave Johns will for ever be associated with that of Daniel Blake. The comedian, playwright and actor played the title role in Ken Loach's 2016 film about the dehumanising effect of the British benefits system, and later chronicled the impact of the movie's success on his life and career in a stand-up show, *From Byker to the Baftas*. So who better than Johns — for so long immersed in the story and its big-hearted protagonist — to adapt the Palme d'Or winner for the stage?

With Johns confining himself to scriptwriting duties the role of the widowed carpenter who finds himself caught in the tangled web of universal credit while recuperating from a big heart attack is played by David Nellist. He does a fine job of capturing the blend of kindliness, tenacity and vulnerability in Daniel, not to mention his outrage at the cruelty, absurdity and humiliation of the benefits process he has reluctantly embarked upon.

Johns's updated version of Paul Laverty's original screenplay places the emphasis on the doublespeak of welfare financing, interspersing scenes of penury and starvation with recordings of politicians loftily extolling the benefits of work. Dan is a grafter but has been advised not to work by his doctor. Having had his application for employment and support allowance turned down, he must appeal online, despite not having access to a computer. He is then at the mercy of the Decision Maker, a faceless representative of the state, who cuts a monstrous, Orwellian figure in the story.

The occasional visual flourish aside, Mark Calvert's production is quiet and straightforward, a little stilted at times, missing the energy and humour of the film. Still, there is much that is stirring and enraging in the show. Bryony Corrigan is moving as Dan's friend Katie, a single mother caught in a dreadful cycle of poverty, poor housing and near-starvation who resorts to prostitution to make ends meet. Their developing relationship is tenderly portrayed, even if the script increasingly falls back on exposition and speech-making at the expense of drama.
Allan Radcliffe
To June 10, then touring to November 18, northernstage.co.uk

opera

Götterdämmerung
Longborough, Gloucestershire
★★★★☆

Surreal though it seems, one of the world's most demanding operas has now been staged in a converted agricultural shed in rural Gloucestershire not once but in two different productions in a decade. This latest is the final piece in the jigsaw of Longborough Festival Opera's new *Ring* cycle, which will be staged complete next summer. Clear your diaries. It could be magnificent.

As always with Wagner at Longborough, the driving force is the veteran conductor Anthony Negus, whose energetic propulsion of *Götterdämmerung*'s vast score is masterful. On stage the director Amy Lane generates epic emotions in a space not much bigger than a squash court. With minimal scenery, that's partly achieved by Tim Baxter's



Lee Bisset and Bradley Daley

video projections: four hours of them, mostly rolling clouds, but also conjuring a strikingly brutalist Valhalla and plenty of flames when we get to the final moments.

Mostly, however, it's achieved by playing the work not as a cosmic conceptual puzzle — as often happens in bigger opera houses — but as a psychological war between characters who exhibit all too recognisable traits: namely jealousy, mendacity and hopelessly misplaced trust. Lane does allow herself two directorial quirks. One is an old book that gets passed from character to character, each apparently reading what comes next in the story. So all the action is pre-ordained? Search me. And the second is the arrival, just before the end, of a familiar face from earlier in the *Ring* — a touch of "let's get the old band back together".

Two characters utterly dominate. Julian Close's Hagen exudes such psychotic menace, vocally and visually, that he reduces his half-brother Gunther to a quivering jelly (a superbly nuanced performance by Benedict Nelson). And Lee Bisset's Brunnhilde is a gloriously sung and compellingly acted portrait of a woman who reaches ecstatic redemption after being duped, humiliated and goaded into vengeance.

Somehow Bisset gives everything for two acts then finds a thrilling extra gear in the third. Sadly, the Siegfried — the Australian tenor Bradley Daley — went the other way, hurling out Act II (doubtless spurred on by a ferocious male chorus), then almost losing his voice. He will pace himself better next time.
Richard Morrison
To June 6, lfo.org.uk

Lloyd Webber's family tree makes quite the show

Carol Midgley TV review



Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1
★★★★☆

Strike: Inside the Unions
BBC2
★★★★☆

It probably felt a stretch for researchers on **Who Do You Think You Are?** to find in Andrew Lloyd Webber's distant bloodline the convenient parallel of not only a musical theatre entrepreneur but also an ace cellist like his brother, Julian. I imagine they rolled their eyes and thought: "Yeah, not asking much, then."

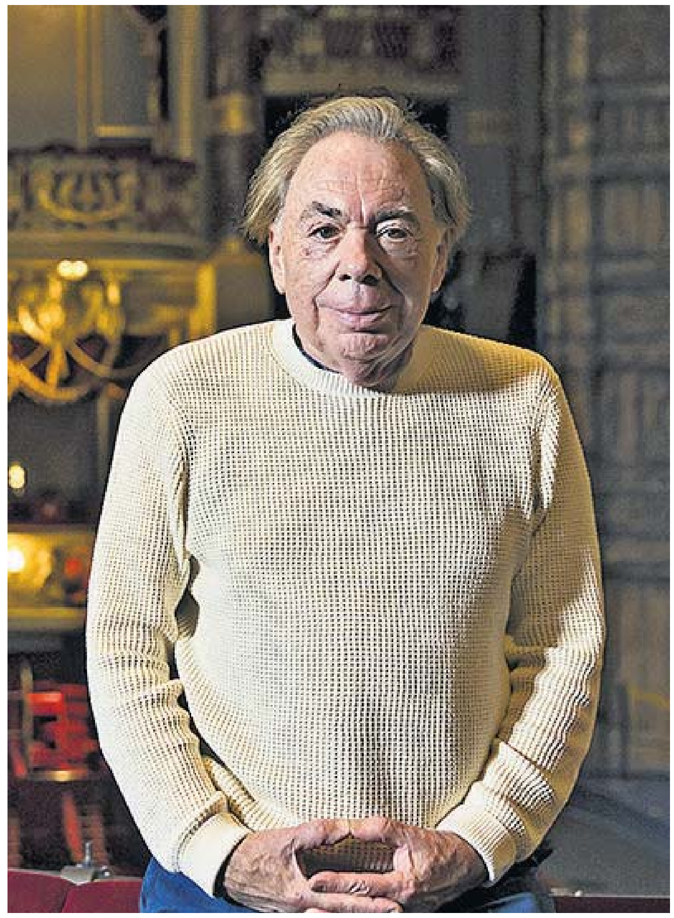
But what do you know? There they were back in the 18th century, the Lloyd Webber trailblazers: showmen, musicians, a composer, rope dancers, theatrical impresarios. Mind you, it was obvious they must have struck a bit of gold from the fact the BBC placed Lloyd Webber first in the series.

"I'm blown away," Lloyd Webber said after gazing at a picture of an ancestor on his father's side playing cello at King's College, Cambridge, in 1760. The family hailed from France but had moved to the Netherlands where they pursued musical theatre. Part of the travelling act involved rope dancing in clogs and skates, which I can't really picture. When told about this, Julian asked if the show was going out on April 1 and compared the rope dancing with skates to *Starlight Express*. Surely this is evidence that musicality is in the genes? It would certainly explain my lack of it.

Lloyd Webber was clearly chuffed with the findings although he seemed equally smitten with Mojito, his little Havanese dog. He mentioned fleetingly that he got Mojito as an "antidote" to the *Cats* movie. I'd like him to have elaborated more, as I've read before that he was so appalled by the film version of his hit musical that he bought an emotional support dog to get over it. He joked that it's the one good thing to come out of it.

But I suppose we weren't here for bitching about terrible films. And it turned out there was a researcher's treasure trove on his mother's side too.

STEPHEN PERRY/BBC



The composer's forebears included musicians and rope dancers

A much posher one. The Lloyd Webbers' 12-times great-grandmother (I think) was a Tudor duchess who fled abroad during Queen Mary's persecution of Protestants. Even tastier, his four-times great uncle Peregrine was a national hero, knighted for commanding the guards at the Battle of Waterloo. "Very brave military man," Lloyd Webber said. "This is something I did not inherit." I often find *Who Do You Think You Are?* dull. This was one of the better ones.

Anyone who uses Amazon will know what a seductive whore it is; one feels guilty and soiled for succumbing but, oh, what satisfying efficiency. So I was fully behind the striking Amazon warehouse staff in **Strike: Inside the Unions**. These workers are brilliant. You order something and it's there next day. They hit virtually every target. Obviously everyone supports the nurses, especially after the pandemic. But if the Amazon workers were bankers they'd be rolling in bonuses because they always deliver.

The woman who couldn't join the Amazon picket line in Coventry but supported the strike epitomised how poverty weakens the worker. She was so underpaid she couldn't afford to strike. "I cannot afford to live," she said. "I pawned my wedding ring and only got it back last week. That's how much they pay us." This is crying out for a second series.

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



The Frost Tapes
Radio 4 Extra, 8pm

All week Radio 4 Extra has been marking (albeit a month later than the precise date) the 60th anniversary of the Beatles' first official chart No 1, *From Me to You*, in April 1963. It was their third single release and would spend seven weeks at the top spot. The band would go on to have 16 more UK No 1 singles, and change popular culture for ever. Tonight there is a chance to hear David Frost's gently revelatory interviews with the band over the years, some of which were thought to have been lost until fairly recently. It's presented by the interviewer's son, the broadcaster Wilfred Frost.

OUR TV NEWSLETTER
Sign up to a weekly briefing of the only shows you need to watch
thetimes.co.uk/bulletins

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Patrick Maguire. Politics without the boring bits **1.00pm** Ruth Davidson. Covering the big political stories of the week, and looking ahead to the weekend, especially in sport and entertainment, Friday's headlines and discussions **4.00** Cathy Newman with Times Radio Drive. Friday's headlines and discussions **7.00** Ed Vaizey. The Conservative peer and former MP sits in bringing his take on the day's news **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Gaby Roslin Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay. Pop superstar Jess Glynne selects her Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **3.30** Scott Mills' Wonder Years **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits. This week's songs are themed to celebrate the start of Pride month **9.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony. A mix of soulful house and lyrical garage tunes **11.00** The Rock Show with Johnnie Walker. A selection of rock tracks **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop **1.00am** Let's Do the Time Warp Again: The Rocky Horror Story **2.00** First and Last: Noel Gallagher (r) **2.30** First and Last: Sam Smith (r) **3.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin (r) **4.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Music, news and listener requests, presented by Petroc Trelawny. Including **7.00**, **8.00** News. **7.30**, **8.30** News headlines
9.00 Essential Classics
Tom McKinney presents music and features, including new discoveries, musical surprises and plenty of familiar favourites
12.00 Composer of the Week: Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)
Kate Molleson tells the story of the composer's meeting with the most famous opera singer of the age. Scarlatti (*Pur nel sonno almen tal'ora*: extracts; Salve Regina in A; Sonata in Cm, K11; and Sonata in G, K547); and Avison (Concerto grosso after Scarlatti, No 5 in Dm — extracts)
1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
The Amatis Trio perform in the final recital from the Hay Festival exploring the music of Schubert and others. Presented by Sarah Walker. Suk (Elegie, Op 23); and Schubert (Piano Trio No 2 in E flat, D929)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
The Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra perform Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra* and the BBC Symphony Orchestra play Sibelius. Plus, madrigals by Gesualdo and his contemporaries. Gesualdo (*Quale spada guerriera*); de Macque (*Tu ti lagni al mio pianto*); Piazzolla arr Desyatnikov (*Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas — Invierno Porteño*); Vivaldi (Concerto in D minor RV.566 for seven instruments and orchestra); Weinberg (Suite for orchestra: Waltz); Schubert (String Quartet No 13 in A minor, Op 29, D. 804 *"Rosamunde"*: II. Andante); R Strauss (*Also sprach Zarathustra*, Op 30); JS Bach (*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645, from *"Schübler Chorales"*); Mozart (Divertimento in B flat, K. 137); and Sibelius (*Valse Triste*)
4.30 The Listening Service
Tom Service explores Ravel's *Boléro* — a classical chart-topper, concert-hall-filler and the soundtrack to Torvill and Dean's Olympic ice dance glory (r)
5.00 In Tune
Featuring Soraya Mafi
7.00 Classical Mixtape
Take time out with a 30-minute soundscape of classical music
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
The Ulster Orchestra, conducted by music director Daniele Rustioni, perform their season finale, a programme celebrating Italy with music by Berlioz, Elgar and Respighi. With Timothy Ridout (viola). Presented by John Toal. Berlioz (*Harold in Italy*); Elgar (*In the South*); and Respighi (*Pines of Rome*)
10.00 The Verb
Ian McMillan's cabaret of the word
10.45 The Essay: Charles Aznavour in Five Songs
Charles Aznavour's astonishing career, essayed in five songs, concluding with *They Fell*, by Nare Mkrtchyan. Aznavour was the quintessential French outsider, but in 1976 he crafted a song that spoke to his roots and the generational pain and loss of the Armenian genocide of 1915
11.00 Late Junction
Jennifer Lucy Allan returns from a trip to Japan to share the sounds and music that caught her attention
1.00am Composed with Devonté Hynes
2.00 Piano Flow with Gabriels
3.00 Through the Night

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
With Martha Kearney and Justin Webb
9.00 Desert Island Discs
The snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan selects eight favourite recordings (4/14) (r)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History
By Jonathan Kennedy (5/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
Anita Rani presents the magazine show offering a female perspective on the world
10.45-7.00 (LW) Live Test Match Special: England v Ireland
Commentary on day two of the one-off four-day Test at Lord's
11.00 Fit for Work
Jolyon Jenkins looks at part attempts to stop the disabled "languishing" on benefits (1/3)
11.30 Ed Reardon's Week
Ed faces a financial crisis once more following the huge vet's bill (6/6) (r)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 Archive on 4: Marvel v DC Comics — Contest of the Champions
Exploring the decades-long rivalry between the two comic-book companies (r)
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth
The insidious way in which convenience has warped humankind's existence (5/5)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: The Attendant
By the Cullen Brothers. The lives of a socially awkward petrol station attendant and cycling-mad woman-of-action collide. With Will Merrick and Patricia Allison (1/5) (r)
2.45 Welcome to the Neighbourhood with Jayde Adams
The comedian Jayde Adams reviews the world of online community forums (2/12)
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time
Experts answer listeners' queries
3.45 Short Works
Summer Holiday by Josie Long
4.00 Last Word
4.30 More or Less
Numbers and statistics used in everyday life. Tim Harford presents (2/6) (r)
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The News Quiz
Topical comedy panel game (6/7)
7.00 The Archers
There's a showdown at Home Farm
7.15 Screenshot
News and insights from the film world (9/9)
8.00 Any Questions?
From the Corn Exchange in Wallingford
8.50 A Point of View
A reflection on a topical issue
9.00 Pop Star Philosophy
Philosophical outpourings of pop stars through the ages (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The House of Doors
By Tan Twan Eng (5/10)
11.00 Americast
11.30 The Spark
James Bridle argues the climate emergency should prompt a little humility (2/4)
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History (5/5) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am Steptoe and Son **8.30** Flying the Flag **9.00** Act Your Age **9.30** Bleak Expectations **10.00** The Believers **11.00** The Events at Black Tor **11.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **12.00** One Two Three Four — The Beatles in Time **12.15pm** The Citadel **12.30** Dr Phil's Bedside Manner **1.00** Steptoe and Son **1.30** Flying the Flag **2.00** Act Your Age **2.30** Bleak Expectations **3.00** The Believers **4.00** The Events at Black Tor **4.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **5.00** One Two Three Four — The Beatles in Time **5.15** The Citadel **5.30** Dr Phil's Bedside Manner **6.00** Steptoe and Son **6.30** Flying the Flag **7.00** Act Your Age **7.30** Bleak Expectations **8.00** The Frost Tapes. Archive interviews featuring Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison. ***See Radio Choice*** **8.30** Frankly Speaking. An interview with Brian Epstein **9.00** The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry. Hannah Fry and Adam Rutherford investigate annoying noises **9.30** Across the Narrow Water. Last in the series **10.00** Comedy Club: Mark Steel's in Town. The comedian visits the island of Malta. Last in the series **10.30** DMs Are Open **11.00** Tim Key's Late Night Poetry Programme **11.15** Knocker **11.30** Les Kelly's Britain

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** The Footballers' Football Podcast **1.30** Kammy & Ben's Proper Football Podcast **2.00** Elis James and John Robins **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** The Friday Football Social **9.00** 5 Live Cricket **9.30** 5 Live F1 **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Laura McGhie

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** Breakfast with Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** GameDay Countdown **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time with Martin Kelner

TalkRadio
Digital only
5.00am James Max **6.30** Jeremy Kyle **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Plank of the Week **8.00** Friday Night with Nadine **9.00** What Just Happened? with Kevin O'Sullivan **9.30** The Royal Tea **10.00** The Best of the Talk **11.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Martin Kelner

6 Music
Digital only
5.00am The Remix with Chris Hawkins **5.30** Emily Pilbeam **7.30** Gemma Cairney **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Huw Stephens **7.00** The People's Party with Afrodeutsche **9.00** Tom Ravenscroft **11.00** The Ravers Hour **12.00** 6 Music's Indie Forever **1.00am** 6 Music's Emo Forever **2.00** Focus Beats **4.00** Ambient Focus

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Rich Williams **1.00am** Olivia Jones

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

television & radio

Viewing Guide
James Jackson

In Concert: Gordon Lightfoot
BBC4, 9pm

Top pick

When the Canadian folk musician Gordon Lightfoot died aged 84 on May 1, the outpouring of tributes said everything about how much his songs still mean to many decades after their release. While Justin Trudeau gave the statesmanlike tribute of "[he] captured our country's spirit in his music", Ben Stiller was tweeting, "What a genius . . . His music is such a big part of my life." Tonight, the unacquainted have a chance to see why Lightfoot is held in such high esteem, while fans will need no such convincing to watch a classic BBC studio concert broadcast in 1972 (taped in the spring of 1971). Accompanied by Richard Haynes and Red Shea, his acoustic songs start with *Summer Side of Life* and continue with *Steel Rail Blues*, *Early Morning Rain* and several more that showcase his deft melodies. His rendition of his best-known song, *If You Could Read My Mind*, is so bittersweet and beautiful you can understand why Bob Dylan once said: "Every time I hear a song of his, it's like I wish it would last for ever." When Frank Sinatra attempted to cover *If You Could Read My Mind*, he ended up frustrated, unable to capture its emotional nuance (it's all about the guilt and hurt caused by the breakdown of Lightfoot's first marriage). The concert is both a tribute to Lightfoot and a fine way to wind down from the week.

Scoop
Netflix

A hard-hitting six-part Indian drama (one intended to be the first in a franchise), this concerns a crime reporter, Jagruti Pathak (Karishma Tanna), who has a tendency to ruffle feathers to get her stories. But then she finds that *she* is the story when she becomes the principal suspect in the slaying of a fellow journalist. She is accused of using her contacts in the underworld to kill her competitor. The idea of the "reporter becoming the reported" (as its maker Hansal Mehta puts it) is a neat hook for what's a slick investigative procedural in Mumbai.

Early

BBC1
6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Rip Off Britain. The online reviews that may not be all they appear. Last in the series **10.45** Fraud Squad. The conwoman who ripped off multiple public bodies to the tune of £1million **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire are sold at auction (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Eric Knowles presents the latest contest from Leominster, Herefordshire (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Father Brown. Goodfellow witnesses Mallory frame an innocent man (r) (AD) **2.30** Money for Nothing. Two side tables gets a stylish new look **3.00** Escape to the Country. Sonali Shah helps a young couple wanting to swap town life in Halifax, West Yorkshire, for country life in the surroundings of North Yorkshire (r) (AD) **3.45** Garden Rescue. Charlie Dimmock and Lee Burkhill design a relaxing zen garden in Greater Manchester **4.30** Clean It, Fix It. Tommy Walsh, Maxine Dwyer and Asher Edwards try to organise the space of a costume designer **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2
6.00am Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) (AD) **6.30** Garden Rescue (r) **7.15** Clean It, Fix It (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Quiz show hosted by Jeremy Vine (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. The environmental factors that contribute to West Yorkshire's Rhubarb Triangle (r) (AD) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. Steve Brown learns about a UK crop of camomile (r) (AD) **3.15** What Britain Buys and Sells in a Day. The team looks at the automotive trade with Cherry Healey visiting a Toyota factory in Derbyshire to see how millions of parts are turned into cars every day (r) (AD) **4.15** Back in Time for the Corner Shop. The Arden family experience corner shop life in the 1980s and 1990s, when stores changed from primary shopping destinations to a place for last minute impulse buys (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! Highlights of the best finds from the programme's travels around the country, including a set of Beatles autographs (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Edith Bowman, Fern Brady, Will Kirk and Martin Lewis take part (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo reaches Lincolnshire (AD)

ITV1
6.00am Good Morning Britain. News, current affairs and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. Daily magazine, featuring a mix of showbiz chat, showbusiness news, lifestyle features, topical discussion, health and beauty advice and more. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Topical debate from a female perspective **1.00** ITV News; Weather **1.20** Regional News; Weather **1.30** Live ITV Racing The Oaks. Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage from Epsom, including the **4.30** Betfred Oaks and chief supporting race the **3.15** Coronation Cup. With analysis from Jason Weaver and Johnny Murtagh, reports from Rishi Persad, Oli Bell, Matt Chapman and Mick Fitzgerald, coverage of events away from the racecourse with Chris Hughes, Mark Heyes and Charlotte Hawkins, betting news from Brian Gleeson, and commentary from Richard Hoiles **5.00** The Chase. Four contestants pit their wits against the Chaser, adding money to the jackpot for the final chase. Presented by Bradley Walsh (r) **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4
6.05am Countdown. Cally Beaton is in Dictionary Corner (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. Henry Cole and Simon O'Brien head to Staffordshire (r) (AD) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me. Three couples compete in and around Berkshire (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch. Weekday magazine show hosted by Steph McGovern **2.10pm** Countdown. Jon Culshaw is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Craig Rowe is in Mijas Pueblo on Spain's Costa del Sol with a Milton Keynes couple who want to buy a holiday home big enough for all the family (r) **4.00** The Great House Giveaway. A dance teacher and a maintenance engineer are teamed up to flip a dated property bought at auction in Greater Manchester. Last in the series (r) **5.00** Sarah Beeny's New Country Lives. A pair plan their dream country home (AD) **6.00** The Simpsons. Bart is criticised by the whole of Springfield when he costs the Isotots baseball team the Little League championship (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. With Juliet's prognosis the top priority on everyone's mind, James tells Ste he thinks they should cancel the honeymoon (r) (AD)

Channel 5
6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions and views on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. When Bree witnesses female admirers at Remi's busking, she is uneasy. Marilyn converts a corner of the Diner into a skincare stall in the hope of selling her products (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Killer Family — A Nanny Nightmare (12, TVM, 2020)** A woman forgets a broken relationship by becoming an au pair for an out-of-town couple — only to discover they hide a dark secret. Thriller with Annie Heise **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. The host and Paul Hayes go head-to-head in the deciding battle for the unofficial title King of the Antiques North **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. The FF9 Friends will try to outplay the Eggheads (r) **6.30** Eggheads. The team WHAT hope to defeat the Eggheads (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



Why the British Isles still hosts the world's most

This week the 2023 Isle of Man TT race – often dubbed the 'most dangerous' race in the world – begins. Six riders died last year at the motorcycle racing event. So why do the competitors keep coming back for more?

Evening

BBC1
7.00 The One Show Live magazine show with Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 Our Lives: My Husband the MMA Fighter Preparations for a fight for cage fighting pro Stevie "Braveheart" Ray. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

8.00 Question of Sport Light-hearted quiz hosted by Paddy McGuinness, with Jens Lehmann, Beth Tweddle, Stephen Hendry and JJ Chalmers

8.30 Would I Lie to You? With Chizzy Akudolu, Simon Gregson, Michelle Visage and Henning Wehn (2/12) (r)

9.00 Have I Got News for You Naga Munchetty guest hosts with Hugh Dennis and Ruth Davidson (8/10)

9.30 Black Ops Dom and Kay set about investigating Riverford Residential Home, suspecting it could be a front for the Brightmarsh Gang (5/6) (AD)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather

10.40 The Chris & Rosie Ramsey Show The husband-and-wife duo are joined by star guests including *First Dates*' real-life Cupid Fred Sirieix and fiancée, Fruitcake, to poke fun at life (4/6)

11.30 Bump Angie, Vince and Rosa receive unwanted Mother's Day surprises, while Oly and Santi are faced with a reality they aren't ready for (5/10)

BBC2
7.00 Cricket: Today at the Test England v Ireland. Action from day two of the four-day one-off Test from Lord's

8.00 Gardeners' World Monty Don creates colourful planting schemes with trailing plants, and Toby Buckland revels in the displays of roses at Mount Ephraim Gardens in Kent

9.00 Hidden Treasures of the National Trust A look at three unique houses in the North East of England that together tell a story of wealth, industry and art in Northumbria. *See Viewing Guide* (4/6) (AD)

10.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Bob and Paul travel to the Crogen Estate in Wales to fish the River Dee for grayling (2/6) (r) (AD)

10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events with Victoria Derbyshire

11.05 MOTDx Football discussion presented by Jermaine Jenas

11.35 Strike: Inside the Unions Documentary about the wave of industrial action that engulfed the UK at the end of 2022 (2/2) (r) (AD)

ITV1
7.00 Emmerdale Nicky begins to feel the pressure building, and agrees to meet Ally in private (AD)

7.30 Coronation Street Ryan endures a courtroom interrogation (AD)

8.00 Britain's Got Talent Ant and Dec host the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete for the chance to win a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance. Judges Bruno Tonioli, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon oversee the returning acts

10.00 ITV News at Ten

10.35 Regional News

10.45 Our House Fi has to come to terms with losing the house and tries to find out more about Bram's whereabouts. She turns to her new partner, Toby, for support, but he has secrets of his own. Thriller starring Tuppence Middleton and Martin Compston (3/4) (r) (AD)

11.45 Our House Fi discovers the truth behind the house sale and confronts those responsible (4/4) (r) (AD)

Channel 4
7.00 Channel 4 News

8.00 The Big Interiors Battle The semi-finalists tackle the challenge of the spare rooms in their apartments with hopes of impressing Dara Huang and making it to the final two (7/8) (AD)

9.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their instant reactions and the lively discussions that are prompted by the week's biggest and best shows (AD)

10.00 The Lateish Show with Mo Gilligan The host chews the fat with big-name guests including the athlete Mo Farah and the comedian Guz Khan. Plus, exciting games, hilarious sketches and superstar performances

11.05 Sarah Millican: Chatterbox Live Stand-up show recorded at London's Bloomsbury Theatre in 2011, in which the comedian shares humorous insights into her life, including the perils of living alone (r)

Channel 5
7.00 The Cotswolds & Beyond with Pam Ayres Pam's journey begins beyond the Cotswolds borders at Highclere Castle, one of Britain's most recognisable stately homes (2/6) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out The comedian explores the Isle of Man, and discovers an island of beautiful landscapes, friendly people and exciting discoveries (4/12)

9.00 World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys A six-hour journey through Yorkshire to Northumbria and the Borders onboard the *Tornado,* enjoying some of the best food and luxury service that trains can offer (6/6) (r)

10.00 Dick Emery: The Naughty Bits & More Friends and colleagues of funnyman Dick Emery share their stories, screen rare home movies, and reveal the man behind the mask. There is a look at his personal life, including his five marriages, and his love/hate relationship with comedy caricatures such as Mandy, whose "Ooh, you are awful," catchphrase was also used as the title for his starring feature in 1972 (r)

Late

BBC1
12.00 Bump Oly's white lie blows up in her face, and Bowie offers a surprising insight into his parents' lives **12.35am FILM: Eastern Promises (18, 2007)** A midwife searching for a baby's family stumbles into an underworld of corruption and people-trafficking. Starring Naomi Watts. *See Viewing Guide* **2.20-6.00** BBC News

BBC2
12.35am Sign Zone: Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland Stories of the Troubles from people on all sides of the conflict (r) (AD, SL) **1.50** Forensics: The Real CSI. An armed gang robs £300,000 worth of gold from a Birmingham jewellery store (r) (AD, SL) **2.50-3.50** Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction. Documentary (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1
12.45am Teleshopping 3.00 Million Pound Pawn. In Sheffield, pawn kingpin Dan Hatfield meets a former care home worker who, after a recent bereavement, is hoping a Rolex watch can change her fortunes (r) (AD, SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00** Ainsley's Caribbean Kitchen. Ainsley Harriott presents a visit to Antigua (r) (SL)

Channel 4
12.10am FILM: Charlie's Angels (12, 2019) Comedy thriller inspired by the television series starring Kristen Stewart **2.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **2.55** Come Dine with Me (r) (AD) **5.00** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free (r) **5.15-6.10** The Yorkshire Dales and the Lakes: Season by Season (r) (AD)

Channel 5
12.00 80s Greatest Songs: 1982 Janice Long recalls the hits of 1982 (r) **1.20am** Teleshopping **3.20** The Yorkshire Vet. Helping a baby alpaca (r) (AD) **4.15** Great Artists (r) (SL) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Fireman Sam (r) (SL) **5.45-6.00** Thomas (r) (SL)

Our Lives: My Husband the MMA Fighter
BBC1, 7.30pm

The Our Lives strand returns with another short but illuminating insight into an offbeat way of life. Here we meet Natalie Ray, a 30-year-old mum of four, married to the mixed martial arts fighter Stevie "Braveheart" Ray, who's just a fight away from becoming Scotland's first world champion. But at what cost? He retired in 2020 and this is his comeback. But getting to the top requires sacrifices, a restrictive diet and a punishing training regimen. This is the tale of his fight for $1 million — and the aftermath — told through Natalie's eyes.

Hidden Treasures of the National Trust
BBC2, 9pm

The fourth episode of this series following National Trust conservation experts visits three houses in the northeast of England. One of those, perched in woodland in Northumberland, is the awe-inspiring Victorian mansion of Cragside. This was built by the industrialist William Armstrong, the son of a Newcastle corn merchant, who made his fortune selling weapons and warships. He was fanatical about timekeeping and the beating heart of his estate was the clock housed in a bespoke tower — which needs a full repair job.

Poker Face
Sky Max/Now, 9pm

The crime-cracking show with the most offbeat sleuth on the block — Natasha Lyonne's Charlie Cale, who can spot a lie from 50 paces — continues with a double bill of cases. First up, Charlie gets a job at a Texas barbecue joint. There's a death among the meat . . . In the second, she ends up on tour with a group of rock musicians, among them Chloë Sevigny. There is a death among the amps . . . In each episode, we see the incident in the first 15 minutes, and there's fun to be had from the rich little characterisations even before Charlie shows up in her vintage Plymouth Barracuda.

Film Eastern Promises
BBC1, 12.35am

David Cronenberg's lurid, involving thriller is set in the underworld of the Russian mafia in London. Into this world stumbles Anna (Naomi Watts), a midwife searching for the identity of a woman who died during her shift. (18, 2007)

Sky Max

6.00am Stop, Search, Seize (r) (AD) **8.00** Supergirl (r) **9.00** Quantum Leap (r) **10.00** The Flash (r) **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** MacGyver (r) **3.00** Quantum Leap (r) **4.00** Supergirl (r) **5.00** The Flash. The gang set a trap to catch Wells (r)
6.00 Stop, Search, Seize (r) (AD)
7.00 Stop, Search, Seize. Documentary (r) (AD)
8.00 A League of Their Own: European Road Trip. Highlights of the adventure (r) (AD)
9.00 Poker Face. Charlie takes a job at a family-run Texas barbecue joint and must use her skills of perception to sniff out the truth behind a shocking death. *See Viewing Guide* (3/10)
10.10 Poker Face. Charlie goes on tour with heavy metal band Doxxxology (4/10)
11.20 Bel-Air. Will struggles on his new basketball team. Jabari Banks stars (5/10)
12.20am Enter the Spider-Verse: A Spider-Man Special (r) **12.50** Strike Back: Legacy (r) (AD)
1.55 Road Wars (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** MacGyver (r) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r) (AD)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **7.55** Big Love (r) **10.05** True Blood (r)
12.15pm Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **3.30** Big Love (r) **5.45** True Blood. Louisiana Governor Truman Burrell declares war against all vampires (r)
6.50 True Blood. A long-lost relative reveals himself to Jason and Sookie (r)
7.55 Game of Thrones. Stannis and Davos arrive in Braavos for their meeting with the Iron Bank, while Tyrion's trial begins (r) (AD)
9.00 Souls. Linn discovers what is going on in the rooms of the cult (5/8) (r)
10.00 White House Plumbers. In 1971, the White House hires E Howard Hunt and G Gordon Liddy to investigate the Pentagon Papers leak. Watergate drama starring Woody Harrelson (r)
11.05 Yellowjackets. Shauna dabbles in some light cyber stalking (8/10) (r) (AD)
12.10am Yellowjackets (r) (AD) **1.15** Big Love (r) **2.20** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **3.20** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am The Movies (r) **7.00** Discovering: Charlie Chaplin (r) (AD) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** The Seventies (r) (AD) **10.00** Ghislaine Maxwell: Epstein's Shadow (r) (AD) **11.00** The Essex Murders (r) (AD) **12.00 FILM: The Capote Tapes (15, 2019)** Profile of the life of the author **2.00pm FILM: The Fog of War (PG, 2003)** Robert McNamara looks back over his career **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Charlie Chaplin (r) (AD)
6.00 The Seventies (r) (AD)
7.00 Ghislaine Maxwell: Epstein's Shadow. The life of the former socialite (3/3) (r) (AD)
8.00 The Essex Murders (r) (AD)
9.00 David Fuller: Monster in the Morgue (r)
10.00 The Man Who Played with Fire (3/4) (r)
11.00 FILM: Love to Love You, Donna Summer (12, TVM, 2023) A profile
1.30am Music Box (r) (AD) **3.40 FILM: Pretending I'm A Superman — The Tony Hawk Video Game Story (12, 2020)**
5.00 Discovering: Charlie Chaplin (r) (AD)

Sky Arts

6.00am Beethoven: The Complete Symphonies **6.45** Verdi's Rigoletto — On the Lake **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Barbara Stanwyck (AD) **12.00** National Treasures: The Art of Collecting (AD) **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** The Art of the Garden **3.00** The Directors **4.00** Discovering: Gregory Peck (AD)
5.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD)
6.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
6.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
7.00 Discovering: John Lennon. A collection of television interviews with the musician
8.00 Guy Garvey: From the Vaults
9.00 Santana: Hymns for Peace — Live at Montreux 2004. A concert of songs about peace and understanding at Montreux's Stravinsky Hall
12.15am FILM: The Grateful Dead (PG, 1977) The band perform at San Francisco's Winterland Ballroom **2.45** Classic Albums **3.45** The Movies **4.45** Auction: George Michael Special **5.10** Video Killed the Radio Star

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Test Cricket Bitesize
10.15 Live Test Cricket: England v Ireland. Coverage of day two of the four-day one-off Test from Lord's, London. The hosts are using this contest as a warm-up for The Ashes, and will be looking to find their best form ahead of the five-Test series against Australia
6.30pm Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Gloucestershire v Surrey. Coverage of the South Group match at Seat Unique Stadium in Bristol
10.00 Live PGA Tour Golf: The Memorial Tournament presented by Workday. Further live coverage of day two from Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio. America's Billy Horschel was the victorious player last year, finishing four strokes clear of compatriot Aaron Wise to win his seventh title on the tour, but is sure to face stiff competition this time around from a stellar field
11.00 Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news, with live analysis and comment

T AUDIO

dangerous race

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TalkTV

6.00am James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** Jeremy Kyle. Political debates, the latest from Parliament, and chats with celebrities **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host takes a look at the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Hard-hitting monologues, debates and time for calls **4.00** Kevin O'Sullivan
7.00 Plank of the Week. Mike Graham presents the ultimate panel show where the guests get to nominate their Plank of the Week
8.00 Friday Night with Nadine. Former Cabinet Minister and author Nadine Dorries presents her take on the week with a mix of topical guests from the world of politics, culture and sport
9.00 The Royal Tea. All the opinions, insight and debate of the latest gossip of the Royal family
9.30 What Just Happened? with Kevin O'Sullivan. Another week in the world of news
10.00 The Best of the Talk
11.00 Friday Night with Nadine
12.00 Andre Walker. Today's top stories
1.00am Plank of the Week **2.00** Rosie Wright and Kevin O'Sullivan **3.00** Friday Night with Nadin **4.00** The Best of the Talk **5.00** Cristo

BBC4

7.00pm Top of the Pops. Jarvis Cocker presents music by Michelle Gayle, Let Loose, INXS, Elastica, Tom Jones and Take That
7.30 Top of the Pops. Simon Mayo introduces music by Snap, China Black, Rozalla, Sting, Pink Floyd, Green Day and East 17 from 1994
8.00 Top of the Pops. Simon Bates and Gary Davies introduce performances by Cashflow, Simply Red and Pet Shop Boys
8.30 Top of the Pops. Noel Edmonds looks at the weekly pop chart from June 1977 and introduces Elkie Brooks, Twiggy and Jesse Green
9.00 In Concert: Gordon Lightfoot. A concert by the singer-songwriter. *See Viewing Guide*
10.05 Sounds of the Sixties: The Folk Revival. Music by Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen
10.35 FILM: Once Were Brothers — Robbie Robertson and the Band (12, 2019) The story of how the Canadian guitarist overcame adversity and found camaraderie alongside the four other men who would become his brothers in music in the Band
12.10am Folk America on Later — with Jools Holland **1.10** Top of the Pops **3.10-3.40** Sounds of the Sixties: The Folk Revival

Talking Pictures

6.00am Ensign O'Toole **6.30 FILM: The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan (U, 1953) 8.35 FILM: Fantastic Voyage (U, 1966) 10.35** Glimpses: Let's Visit the Crofters **10.55 FILM: Isn't Life Wonderful! (U, 1953) 12.35pm FILM: The Mark of Zorro (U, 1940)** (b/w) **2.30** Crown Court **3.00 FILM: Falstaff — Chimes At Midnight (U, 1965)** Drama directed by and starring Orson Welles (b/w)
5.20 BEA: Number One in Europe
6.00 Time to Remember
6.30 FILM: The Steel Bayonet (PG, 1957) Wartime drama starring Raymond Francis (b/w)
8.15 Look at Life
8.30 Dial 999 (b/w)
9.00 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro
9.05 FILM: The Crucible (12, 1996) Period drama starring Daniel Day-Lewis
11.35 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro
11.40 FILM: Shatter (18, 1974) Action thriller starring Stuart Whitman
1.25am Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **1.30 FILM: Blood and Wine (15, 1996)** Thriller **3.35 FILM: Final Appointment (PG, 1954)** Thriller (b/w) **5.00** Target: The Corruptors

Film4

11.00am Gunfight at the OK Corral (PG, 1957) Western starring Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas **1.25pm The Tin Star (U, 1957)** Western with Henry Fonda (b/w) **3.15 Oliver! (U, 1968)** Musical starring Ron Moody
6.10 Transformers (12, 2007) A teenage boy's first car leads him into an intergalactic war between two factions of giant shape-changing robots. Sci-fi action adventure starring Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox and Josh Duhamel (AD)
9.00 Ronin (15, 1998) A team of mercenaries is hired to steal a briefcase from a gang of criminals, but one of the group betrays the others. John Frankenheimer's action thriller starring Robert De Niro and Jean Reno
11.25 Snatch (18, 2000) A boxing promoter and his dim-witted sidekick are drawn into a match-fixing racket and a diamond robbery gone wrong. Guy Ritchie's comedy drama with Jason Statham, Brad Pitt and Benicio Del Toro (AD)
1.30am-3.25 Blindspotting (15, 2018) While on probation, a man begins to re-evaluate his relationship with his volatile best friend. Crime drama with a light-hearted edge, starring Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal

More4

8.55am Kirstie's Vintage Gems **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Escape to the Château. Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree make plans to host weddings on the grounds (AD)
6.55 The Dog House. A nervous labrador named Loki arrives at the centre (AD)
7.55 Grand Designs. A couple begin an ambitious project to transform a small, damp bungalow in Cornwall into a cutting-edge family home with an extra floor and reinforced walls, all for just £80,000 (2/10) (AD)
9.00 I Killed My Husband. Anna is increasingly overwhelmed by flashbacks and is coming closer and closer to disaster. In French (3/6) (AD)
10.05 24 Hours in A&E. Cameras focus on people who have faced challenges and transformed their lives (6/8) (AD)
11.05 24 Hours in A&E. Cameras follow 56-year-old Dave, who is brought to St George's after falling from a ladder at work (7/8) (r)
12.10am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the quiz **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.50** A Place in the Sun

ITV2

6.00am World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.00** Dress to Impress (AD, SL) **8.00** One Tree Hill **9.00** Dawson's Creek **10.00** Love Bites (AD) **11.00** Dress to Impress (AD) **12.00** Britain's Got Talent **2.00pm** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Celebrity Dinner Date (AD)
6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase (AD)
7.00 Superstore. Amy and Jonah experience the high-life at a management conference (AD)
7.30 Superstore. Amy decides she wants to be a manager, so Glenn resolves to teach her (AD)
8.00 Bob's Burgers. Bob and Linda get into trouble with their accountant (AD)
8.30 Bob's Burgers. Linda finds a potato that resembles her late grandfather (AD)
9.00 FILM: Fast & Furious 8 (12, 2017) A street racer betrays those closest to him because of a mystery woman. Action adventure sequel with Vin Diesel and Charlize Theron (AD)
11.40 Family Guy (AD)
12.10am Family Guy (AD) **12.40** American Dad! (AD) **1.30** Superstore (AD) **2.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** On the Buses **9.15** Wild at Heart (AD) **10.25** Agatha Christie's Poirot **11.30** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.40** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.45** Foyle's War (AD) **5.55** Heartbeat. Mike and Jackie house a police informant (AD)
6.55 Heartbeat. Craddock is smitten by the charms of newcomer Susan Finlay (AD)
8.00 Vera. The detective investigates a suspicious death in an army barracks that was designed to look like suicide, and uncovers an event nobody wants to talk about (4/4) (AD)
10.00 Scott & Bailey. Janet interviews serial killer Geoff Hastings while the rest of the team investigates a taxi driver's murder (5/8) (AD)
11.00 Scott & Bailey. Rachel meets Sean's son, putting her even further off the idea of marriage, while Janet turns down Andy's invitation for a drink — so he accuses her of leading him on (6/8) (AD)
12.05am Wild at Heart. Danny prepares to leave for the UK (AD) **1.10** Agatha Christie's Poirot **2.20** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am The Best of the 70s **6.20** Minder (AD, SL) **7.20** The Professionals (AD) **8.25** The Saint **9.30** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.40** Magnum, PI (AD) **11.40** The Saint **12.45pm** The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **1.55** Giant Lobster Hunters (AD) **2.55** Magnum, PI (AD) **3.55** The Professionals (AD) **4.55** Minder. When the police pick up Arthur for shady car dealings, Terry goes in search of those responsible for his predicament (AD)
6.05 Giant Lobster Hunters. Bryce goes head-to-head with a ferocious storm (AD)
7.00 BattleBots. Brutus, Warhawk and End Game fight for a guaranteed spot
8.00 The 1% Club. Quiz hosted by Lee Mack (AD)
9.00 Isle of Man TT: Qualifying Highlights. A round-up of the qualifying sessions
10.00 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite. Action from the world of All Elite Wrestling — the roster features world-class talent including Jon Moxley, Chris Jericho and Claudio Castagnoli
12.00 Isle of Man TT: Qualifying Highlights
1.00am Minder (AD, SL) **2.00** The Professionals (AD, SL) **3.00** Live Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.05** Birds of a Feather **7.35** Pie in the Sky **8.35** Lovejoy **9.40** Classic Holby City **10.35** Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Tenko **3.00** Lovejoy **4.10** Peak Practice **5.20** May to December. Alec and Zoe feel the strain
6.00 Just Good Friends
6.40 Last of the Summer Wine
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine. Billy is burdened by his humourless brother-in-law
8.00 Father Brown. Mallory and Father Brown go missing, and it is up to the gang to save them from a man hell-bent on revenge (AD)
9.00 Sister Boniface Mysteries. Sparks fly as Sam and Ruth go undercover at a spiritual retreat for couples only (AD)
10.00 New Tricks. The team reopens the investigation into a terrorist's death after his daughter receives an anonymous note saying he was murdered (3/10) (AD)
11.20 Silent Witness. A corpse is found after a lorry crashes into an old factory building
1.55am Rebellion **2.55** Classic Holby City **3.35** Queers **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.10am Classic Soul at the BBC **7.10** Dame Shirley Bassey — A Celebration **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **9.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **10.00** Great British Railway Journeys **11.00** Fred Dibnah's World of Steam, Steel and Stone **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Great British Railway Journeys **2.00** Bangers and Cash **4.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **5.00** Great British Railway Journeys. With Michael Portillo
6.00 Inside the Factory. Visiting a bakery
7.00 Bangers and Cash. A 1970 Excalibur Roadstar arrives at Thornton-le-Dale (1/8)
8.00 The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard. Marketing manager Laura devises a stunt to get some much-needed publicity (2/3)
9.00 Great American Railroad Journeys. Michael Portillo journeys from New York City to Albany
10.00 Bangers and Cash. Dave's son collects two cars with a 35-year age difference (10/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering (6/12) (AD)
12.00 Great British Railway Journeys
1.00am Classic Soul at the BBC **2.00** Forbidden History (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: 7.30pm Feed Yourself Fitter with Stephen Nolan. A woman struggling with weight gain since she started the menopause **8.00** Restoration Rescue. Patrick Bradley follows the restorations of historic buildings (r) **8.30-9.00** Our Lives: My Husband the MMA Fighter. A key fight for cage fighting pro Stevie "Braveheart" Ray. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: 11.15am-12.15pm Homes Under the Hammer. Featuring properties in Lancashire and Somerset (AD) **8.00** Landward. Dougie Vipond heads to the East Neuk of Fife to visit the Balcaskie Estate (r) **8.30-9.00** Question of Sport. With Jens Lehmann, Beth Tweddle, Stephen Hendry and JJ Chalmers (r)

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: 7.30pm-8.00 Wynne's Welsh 70s. Wynne Evans explores the BBC Wales archives of 1974 **8.30-9.00** Our Lives: My Husband the MMA Fighter. A key fight for cage fighting pro Stevie "Braveheart" Ray. *See Viewing Guide* (AD) **11.30** Rookie Nurses. Newly qualified Caitlin calms the nerves to get stuck in her first week in A&E (r) **12.05am-12.35** Would I Lie to You? With panellists Chizzy Akudolu, Simon Gregson, Michelle Visage and Henning Wehn (r)

STV
As ITV1 except: 1.30pm-5.00 Live STV Racing The Oaks. Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage from Epsom, including the **4.30** Betfred Oaks and chief supporting race the **3.15** Coronation Cup **10.35-10.45** STV News **3.50am-5.05** Night Vision

UTV
As ITV1 except: 10.45pm Our House. Fi is left reeling by Bram's apparent involvement in the house sale. In the past, Bram frantically covers up his part in the accident (r) (AD) **11.45-12.45am** Our House. Fi has to come to terms with losing the house and tries to find out more about Bram's whereabouts (r) (AD)

BBC Scotland
7.00pm The Seven **8.00** Scottish Cup Classics (r) **9.00** Ballistic: Super Caley's Big Night. A look back at Inverness Caledonian Thistle's Scottish Cup win at Celtic in 2000 (r) **9.30** Still Game (r) (AD) **10.00-12.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend Dundee Highlights

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Treubh an Tuathanais (Big Barn Farm) (r) **5.15** Pip & Posy (r) **5.25** Sionnach agus Maigheach (Fox & Hare) (r) **5.35** 'S E Iasg a Th'Annam (I'm a Fish) (r) **5.40** AH-AH/No-No (r) **5.50** Peataichean/Pets (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Aithne air Ainmhidhean (All About Animals) (r) **6.25** @12 (r) **6.30** A' Chuil (r) **6.35** Kung Fu Panda (r) **7.00** An Là (News) **7.25** Live Scottish Junior Cup Final 2023: Cumnock Juniors v Glencairn (Kick-off **7.35**). Coverage of the showpiece match at Broadwood Stadium in Cumbernauld **9.50** Dàn (r) **10.00** Machair (r) **10.25** Fraochy Bay (r) **10.30** State of Happiness (r) **11.15** Seirm (r) **11.30** Solas — Margaret Fay Shaw of Canna (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Halibalw (r) **6.15** Twt (r) **6.30** Y Brodyr Coala (r) **6.40** Jen a Jim a'r Cywiadur (r) **6.55** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **7.05** Oli Wyn (r) **7.20** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **7.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **7.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **8.00** Bing (r) **8.10** Cymylaubychain (r) **8.20** Stiw (r) **8.35** Teulu Ni (r) **8.45** Llan-ar-goll-en (r) **9.00** Timpo (r) **9.10** Cei Bach (r) **9.25** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **9.35** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **9.45** Ahoi! (r) **10.00** Blociau Rhif (r) **10.05** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **10.15** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **10.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2023 **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2023 **1.55** News; Weather **2.00** Live Urdd 2023: Defod y Coroni **2.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2023 **6.00** Copsan (AD) **6.30** Glannau Cymru o'r Awyr (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2023 **9.25** News; Weather **9.30** Canu gyda Fy Arwr (r) **10.30** Dim Byd Fel Hogia'r Wyddfa (r) **11.00** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **11.30-1.00am** Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2023 (r)

MindGames

Backgammon Chris Bray

A question of time

Holmes was reclining in his favourite armchair as I entered our rooms at 221B. For me, it had been a tiring day seeing a constant stream of patients.

"No matter how much I try, Holmes, I am forever running out of time," I remarked.

"Time is a complex topic, Watson. Perhaps never more so than when playing our favourite game where the concept of timing is often the deciding factor in our decision making. I was thinking of that position you had when playing a few games with Mycroft the other evening. Let me show you."

So saying he set up the board as set out below.

"I remember this very clearly," I remarked. "I knew I had to get the back checkers moving and so I split them with 24/23 and then I had difficulty choosing between 9/5 and 7/3. In the end I chose 9/5 because I didn't want to move my spare checker on the bar-point beyond my 4-pt, which was a point I really wanted to make. Sadly, I went on to lose the game."

"And yet, Watson, in your brief analysis you hit upon the key factor in the position but didn't act upon it," said Holmes.

"Please explain, Holmes," I replied with some asperity.

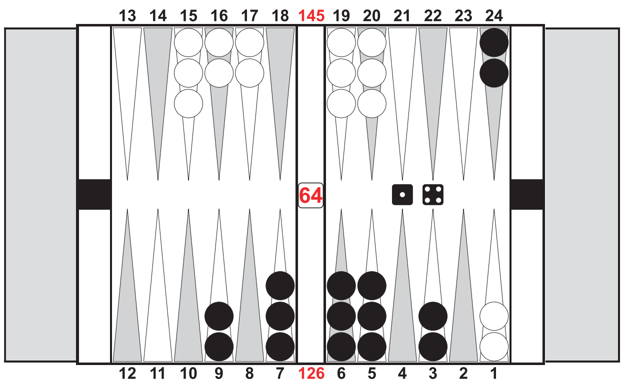
"Certainly, my dear Watson. Your 4-pt was the most important point on the board. If you could make it, you might well establish a winning position. Your problem was that you were running out of time and both your suggested plays put checkers where you didn't really want them.

"Splitting the back checkers was also very dangerous with Mycroft having 13 checkers in the attack zone. The anchor should have been kept while you resolved the position on your side of the board. Now do you see the solution?"

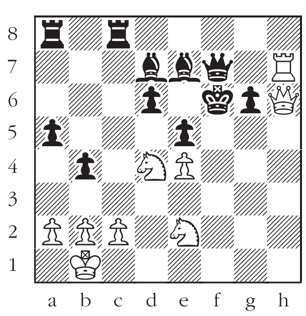
"Good Lord, Holmes, you mean I should have played 9/4, slotting the 4-pt?"

"Precisely, my dear doctor. You are not likely to make the 4-pt with the builders you have, and therefore you must slot it. By making the bold play you solve the timing problem."

"A most lucid explanation, Holmes. As ever, your analysis is spot on."



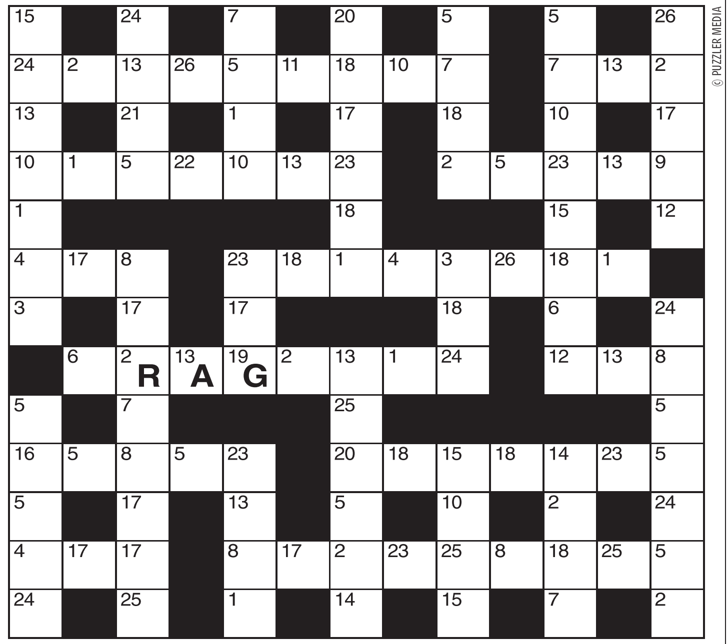
Winning Move



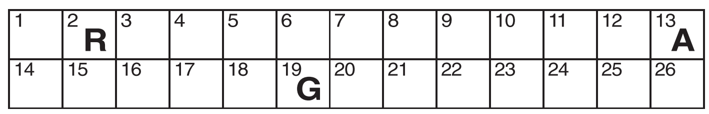
Black to play.
This position is from Movahed-Korobov, Titled Tuesday chess.com 2023.

White has sacrificed a rook to break through on the kingside. His attack was not strong enough to win but he did have sufficient firepower to ensure a draw by perpetual check. However, he has turned this down and this proves to be a decision he quickly regrets. How did Black continue?

Codeword No 4917



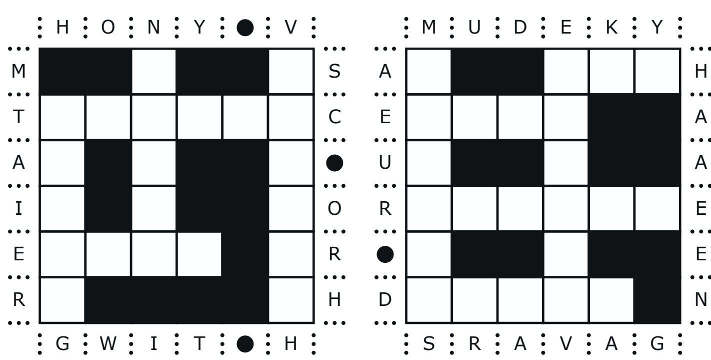
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

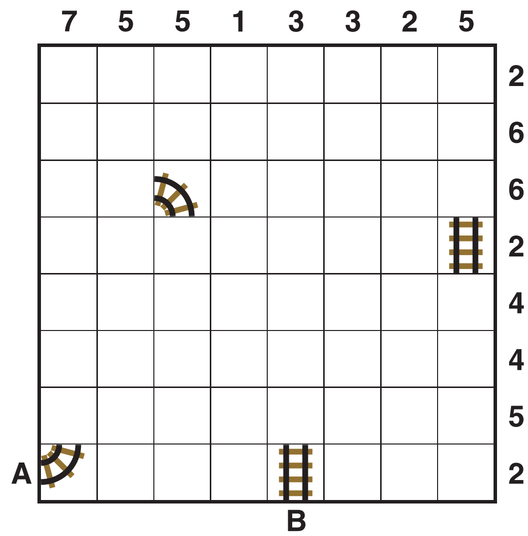
Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

Lexica No 6899 No 6900



Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 1952



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Voluble speaker's gift in sack returned (3)

_ _ _

2 Talent just about luck, primarily (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Oldest judge sadly gets pushed around (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

4 Copying old king sent back: eleven no good (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Run across lake with one of five — or one of fifteen? (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	B	D	E	E	E
F	G	G	H	I	I	I	J
L	L	L	N	N	O	O	Q
R	R	R	S	T	U	X	X

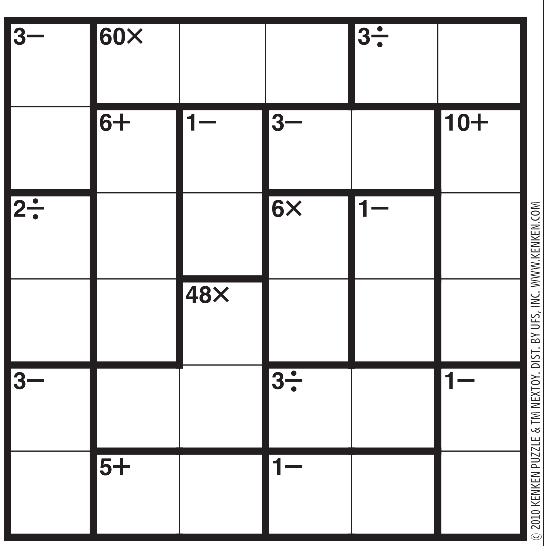
Challenge your mind with puzzle books from The Times



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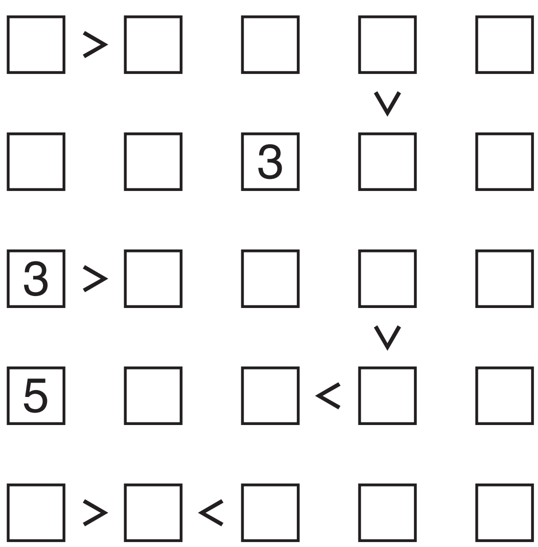
What are your favourite puzzles in MindGames?
Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

KenKen Difficult No 5909



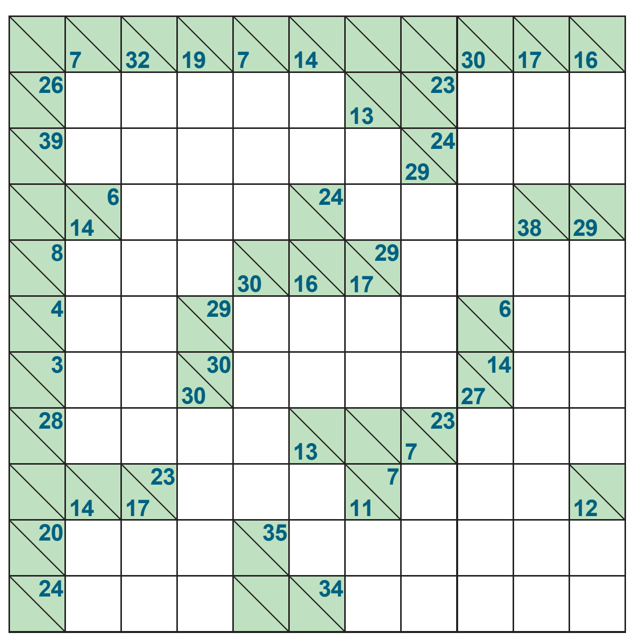
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4490



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

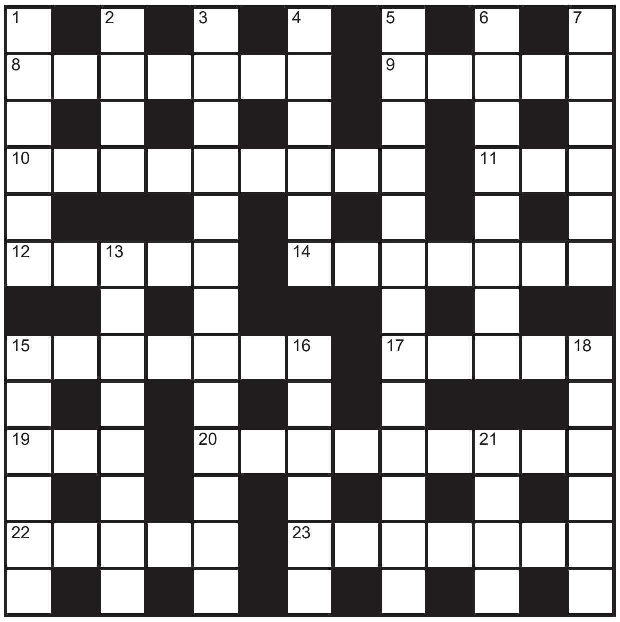
Kakuro No 3449



Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

MindGames

times2 Crossword No 9233



Across
8 Whines pathetically (7)
9 Indian unit of currency (5)
10 Abandonment of one's post (9)
11 Type, sort (3)
12 Italian dish baked with various toppings (5)
14 Pickled cucumber (7)
15 Riot control chemical (4,3)
17 Group of warships (5)
19 Court romantically (3)
20 Tequila cocktail (9)
22 Programme shown again (5)
23 Forestall, anticipate (3-4)

Down
1 Fully depleted (4,2)
2 Children (4)
3 Act of placing in a new order (13)
4 Posing a question (6)
5 Royal title (6,2,5)
6 Lightly scatter (8)
7 Jacket without sleeves (6)
13 Fanaticism (8)
15 Foil, frustrate (6)
16 Excessively sentimental (6)
18 Characteristics (6)
21 Metrical foot of a short then long syllable (4)

Solution to Crossword 9232

I	M	P	U	G	N		C	R	E	C	H	E
N		A		O		D		E		H		M
F	A	R	R	A	G	O		S	A	U	T	E
E		A				U		O		R		R
R	A	P	I	D		B	O	N	A	N	Z	A
		E		I		L		A				L
A	C	T		A	G	E	N	T		B	E	D
R				P		C		E		A		
B	U	T	C	H	E	R		D	E	L	T	A
I		U		R		O				L		B
T	I	B	I	A		S	O	P	R	A	N	O
E		E		G		S		E		S		D
R	E	S	U	M	E		S	T	A	T	U	E

Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

Similar ... but different (89)

Partner leads a high card v a suit contract, and dummy tables with a singleton. It makes no sense for your card to be attitude (telling partner whether or not to continue). For it is unlikely to be right for partner to continue (dummy is ruffing). Your signal becomes suit preference — telling partner which suit to switch to.

Deal One
Dealer S

North: ♠Q10543 ♥QJ4 ♦4 ♣Q962
West: ♠8 ♥A872 ♦AK10753 ♣83
East: ♠97 ♥K6 ♦J862 ♣J10754
South: ♠AKJ62 ♥10953 ♦Q9 ♣AK

S	W	N	E
1♠	2♦	3♠	Pass
4♠	End		

West led ♦A and dummy tabled with a singleton diamond. East's diamond card was now suit preference. Wanting a switch to the higher-ranking hearts (over clubs), East signalled with ♦J.

At trick two, West switched to ♥2. East won ♥K, returned ♥6 to ♥A, whereupon West led a third heart and East ruffed — one down. East-West had found the only winning defence. Note, it was fine (and necessary) for West to lead from under her ♥A (it's only at trick one that an ace-underlead is to be avoided).

It is true East might have been signalling for hearts because she held a singleton, in which case it would have been better for West to switch to ♥A and another, East ruffing. However, (i) that would give South five hearts, possible but less likely than four. (ii) Ace of hearts and a heart ruff would give the defence only three tricks; they would still need one more. If in doubt, these suit preference signals show high cards, not shortage.

Deal Two
Dealer S

North: ♠Q10543 ♥QJ4 ♦4 ♣Q962
West: ♠8 ♥10872 ♦AK10753 ♣K3
East: ♠97 ♥963 ♦J862 ♣A754
South: ♠AKJ62 ♥AK5 ♦Q9 ♣J108

S	W	N	E
1♠	2♦	3♠	Pass
4♠	End		

West leads ♦A and East signals with ♦2, suit preference for clubs (over hearts). West duly switches to ♣K (top of two), ♣3 to ♣A, and delightedly receives a third-round ruff — one down. It would be hard for West to switch to ♣K without partner's suit preference signal.

I should stress that suit preference operates only when dummy has no (more) losers. If, after West leads ♦A, dummy tables with ♦xx, East's signal is attitude. However, if dummy tables with ♦Kx, the signal is suit preference — no (more) diamond losers in dummy, rendering attitude pointless.

Finally, if East had no preference between the other suits, she would play a middle diamond.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY	35	DOUBLE IT	÷ 7	x 5	+ 14	÷ 8	x 3	+ 4	+ 16	÷ 11	ANSWER
MEDIUM	48	÷ 8	SQUARE IT	x 6	+ 1/3 OF IT	x 2	+ 4	DOUBLE IT	+ 6	– 30	ANSWER
HARDER	120	– 24	– 2/3 OF IT	HALF OF IT	CUBE IT	– 7/8 OF IT	+ 20	– 2	– 3/5 OF IT	+ 15	ANSWER

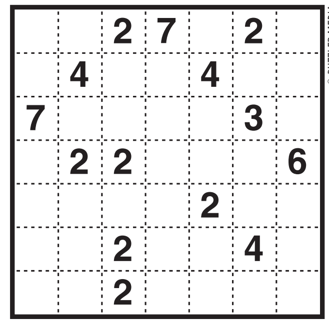
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **four** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 11 words, average; 15, good; 22, very good; 30, excellent

Yesterday's answers
adder, arame, area, armed, dame, dare, **daydream**, dead, dear, demy, derm, derma, dramedy, dread, dream, dreamy, drey, dyer, eddy, eyra, madder, mare, mead, read, ready, ream, redd, reddy, yare, year

Cell Blocks No 4800



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

Set Square No 3452

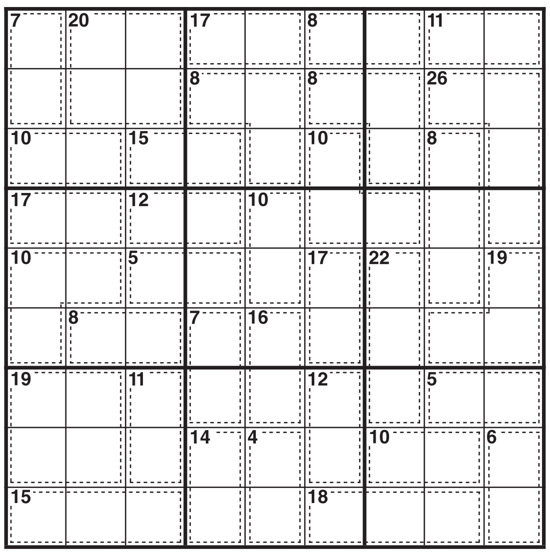
	×	8	÷	4	= 10
+		–		×	
	÷		+		= 11
–		×		×	
	+		×		= 9
= 4		= 10		= 36	

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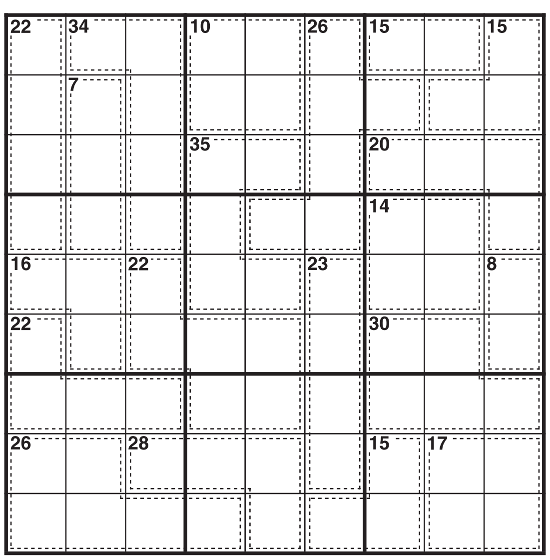
Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Moderate No 8905



Killer Deadly No 8906



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

Quick Cryptic 2408

B	R	U	T	A	L		P	O	R	T	A	L
	A		R		O		E		E		R	
E	N	D	A	N	G	E	R		B	U	S	H
	G		C				S		U		E	
N	E	W	T		P	L	E	A	S	I	N	G
			O		R		C				A	
S	P	A	R	S	E		U	N	R	U	L	Y
	R				M		T		E			
R	E	L	E	G	A	T	E		S	O	F	T
	P		I		T				T		A	
H	A	N	G		U	N	S	T	A	B	L	E
	R		H		R		I		R		S	
S	E	T	T	L	E		P	O	T	T	E	R

Codeword 4916

S	P	R	I	T	E		C	A	B	A	N	A
H		E		E		W		N		S		N
I	M	P	A	S	S	E		G	U	P	P	Y
F		E		S		A		E		H		O
T	U	L	L	E		V	I	L	L	A	I	N
Y				R		E				L		E
	I	F	T	A	R		A	C	U	T	E	
Z		L				R		A				E
E	Q	U	A	B	L	E		B	E	G	I	N
P		N		I		P		O		R		J
H	I	K	E	R		A	V	O	C	A	D	O
Y		E		C		Y		S		F		I
R	H	Y	T	H	M		S	E	X	T	O	N

Kakuro 3448

5	3	1	2	4		3	1		
3	1	2	4	6		1	2	7	3
		3	1		4	2		1	2
	6	5		3	5		8	9	7
2	1		7	4	2	1	6	8	9
9	7	8	5	2	1	3		3	1
8	9	6		1	3		5	6	
1	3		8	5		1	3		
6	8	9	7		8	4	2	1	9
		8	9		9	2	1	3	7

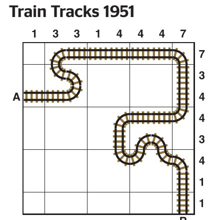
Sudoku 14,082

6	4	8	1	7	3	2	5	9
7	2	5	9	4	6	8	1	3
9	3	1	2	5	8	6	4	7
1	7	3	8	9	4	5	6	2
5	8	6	3	1	2	7	9	4
2	9	4	7	6	5	1	3	8
3	6	2	4	8	1	9	7	5
4	5	7	6	2	9	3	8	1
8	1	9	5	3	7	4	2	6

Tetonor 366

54	16	64	24
6 x 9	8 + 8	8 x 8	19 + 5
15	55	40	81
6 + 9	55 x 1	5 x 8	27 x 3
95	30	56	13
19 x 5	27 + 3	55 + 1	8 + 5
22	72	18	57
3 + 19	12 x 6	12 + 6	3 x 19

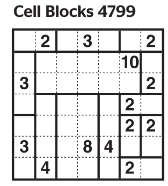
Train Tracks 1951



Sudoku 14,083

6	5	3	9	7	1	8	2	4
1	2	8	3	4	5	6	9	7
7	4	9	2	6	8	5	1	3
8	3	6	7	2	9	1	4	5
4	7	5	1	3	6	9	8	2
9	1	2	5	8	4	3	7	6
2	9	7	8	5	3	4	6	1
5	8	4	6	1	2	7	3	9
3	6	1	4	9	7	2	5	8

Cell Blocks 4799



Set Square 3451

9	÷	1	–	2
+		+		×
5	+	3	–	4
×		+		×
8	×	6	–	7

Lexica 6897

			J		
M	U	S	E	U	M
O			T		U
S	O	B			G
S		O			
Y	A	W	N		

Sudoku 14,084

6	3	7	9	4	1	8	2	5
1	2	4	5	7	8	9	3	6
8	9	5	3	2	6	7	4	1
2	7	6	1	9	3	5	8	4
5	4	1	7	8	2	3	6	9
9	8	3	4	6	5	1	7	2
3	6	9	2	1	7	4	5	8
7	1	2	8	5	4	6	9	3
4	5	8	6	3	9	2	1	7

Futoshiki 4489

5 1 4 > 2 < 3
1 < 2 5 > 3 4
∨ (under the fourth column)
3 < 4 2 1 5
∧ (under the second column) ∧ (under the fourth column)
2 5 3 4 1
4 3 > 1 5 2

KenKen 5908

5– 1	6	2÷ 4	2	15× 5	3
13+ 5	2	2÷ 6	1– 3	4	1
6	6+ 1	3	8× 4	3÷ 2	5 5
10+ 3	5	2	1	6	48× 4
4	3	12+ 5	7+ 6	1	2
2	4	1	2– 5	3	6

Lexica 6898

			S		
L	I	V	I	D	
A			L		W
B	U	C	K	L	E
E		U			E
L	E	T			D

Killer 8903

8	5	1	3	7	4	6	9	2
2	3	7	5	6	9	1	4	8
4	9	6	8	2	1	3	5	7
3	8	5	2	9	7	4	1	6
7	1	9	4	5	6	2	8	3
6	2	4	1	8	3	5	7	9
9	6	3	7	1	5	8	2	4
1	4	8	9	3	2	7	6	5
5	7	2	6	4	8	9	3	1

Killer 8904

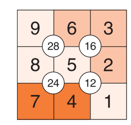
9	5	8	6	1	7	3	2	4
3	4	7	8	5	2	1	6	9
2	1	6	4	9	3	8	5	7
8	3	1	7	2	6	9	4	5
7	6	4	5	3	9	2	1	8
5	2	9	1	8	4	7	3	6
4	9	2	3	7	5	6	8	1
1	7	5	2	6	8	4	9	3
6	8	3	9	4	1	5	7	2

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Nonet
2 Angora
3 Random
4 Mulheim
5 Ennobled

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Gab
2 Flair
3 Jostled
4 Xeroxing
5 Harlequin

Suko 3818



Brain Trainer
Easy 4
Medium 1,136
Harder 227

Word watch
Pollicitation (b) The act of promising (*Collins*)
Heartspoon (b) The hollow over the sternum (*Chambers*)
Éboulement (c) The collapse of a fortress wall (*OED*)

Chess — Winning Move
1 ... Qxh7! 2 Qxh7 Rh8 and the white queen is trapped. Black emerges with a winning material advantage

Quiz
1 Green. **2** Winston Churchill. **3** Nicola Sturgeon. **4** Pacific Ocean. **5** Rupert Bear. **6** Jerry Hall. **7** Howard Hughes. **8** Pam Ayres. **9** Waterloo and City. **10** The Bravery. **11** Edmund Gosse. **12** Jerome Kern. **13** Beryllium. **14** Darlington FC. **15** Zandra Rhodes.

THE TIMES

02.06.23

MindGames

Word watch
David Parfitt

Pollicitation
a A gesture made with the thumb
b The act of promising
c A count of those in attendance

Heartspoon
a To gaze at with romantic longing
b The hollow over the sternum
c A coal shovel

Éboulement
a A winning shot in pétanque
b Bubbling with excitement
c The collapse of a fortress wall

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Mild No 14,085

	1						2	
2			6		3			8
		8		2		5		
9								7
	7		4	8	9		1	
	9		1		4		6	
		4	8		2	9		
	3	6	9		5	2	8	

Difficult No 14,086

	8						7	
				6				
	5	3				4	9	
3			5		2			9
7								2
6			9	1	3			5
	2	7	6		4	9	3	
	6			2			5	

Fiendish No 14,087

				5	9		8	
					6			
			2	4				6
		1			5			4
4		2				1		
3	9		6		4		5	
				8				9
6					2			8
		5	7			4	2	

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 Shamrock and laurel are shades of which colour?

2 On his 1940 appointment as prime minister, who also adopted the self-created position of minister of defence?

3 In March 2023, who stepped down after 3,051 days as Scotland's first minister?

4 The East China Sea is an arm of which ocean?

5 Nutwood tartan is named after the village of which fictional bear?

6 Which model and former long-term partner of Mick Jagger was born in Gonzales, Texas in 1956?

ALAMY



7 In 1969, which US billionaire bought the Landmark hotel and casino in Las Vegas for $17.3 million?

8 *Some of Me Poetry* (1976) and *Thoughts of a Late-Night Knitter* (1978) are books by which British poet?

9 Which London Underground line serves only two stations?

10 The UK top 10 hit *An Honest Mistake* (2005) and *Believe* (2007) are singles by which US rock band?

11 Which English critic's 1907 memoir *Father and Son* has been called the first psychological biography?

12 The 1946 film *Till the Clouds Roll By* is a biopic of which US songwriter and Broadway pioneer?

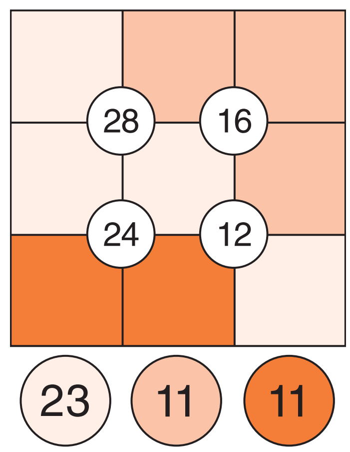
13 Discovered by Nicolas-Louis Vauquelin, what was the metallic element glucinium officially renamed in 1957?

14 Former safe-breaker George Reynolds bought which football club, nicknamed "The Quakers", in 1999?

15 Which English fashion designer is pictured?

Answers on page 15

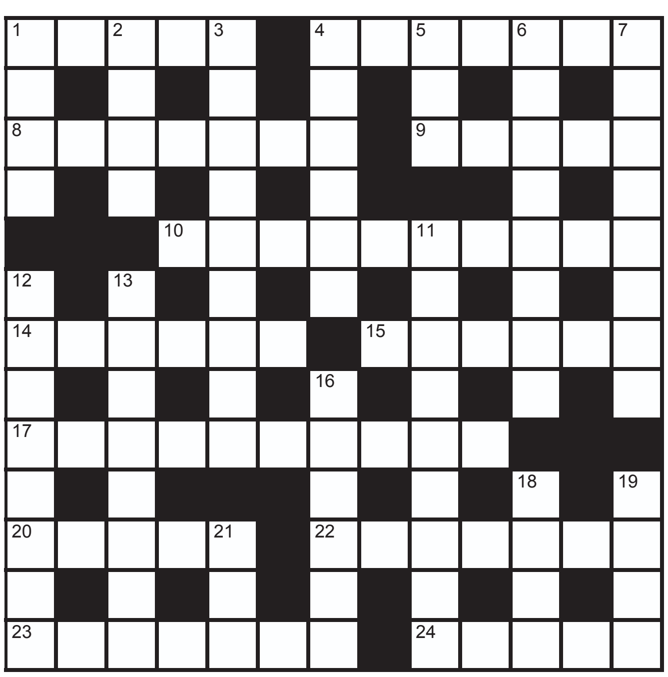
Suko
No 3818



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2409 by Kenny



Across
1 Appellation created by President Lincoln in the fifties (5)
4 Poultry cage Edward brought on board (7)
8 Weapons treaty, shaky at best, close to completion (4,3)
9 Puts in order that requires instant mug shot first of all (5)
10 Fix a fizzy drink: DA gets a cocktail (4,6)
14 Men's publication from convict — about a Deutschmark (3,3)
15 Messenger detained hugging artist (6)
17 Verbals duo exchanged in the streets of Paris? (10)
20 Encountered Oscar repeatedly making movement (2,3)
22 Yours truly has a cosy place, most humble (7)
23 Our land is ploughed as a small lump appears (7)
24 Born, then days and years in poverty (5)

*Yesterday's solution on page 15**

Down
1 Two notes that follow so delayed (4)
2 Optimal to live above street (4)
3 Oil that's but a relic, sadly (9)
4 Racket smashing causes talk (6)
5 Grass where go-carts oddly going missing (3)
6 Sailor crossing border on an unusually shaped boat (8)
7 Breaks up gangs descended on by CID officers (8)
11 In the red pullover draw Nicholas, but not fully (9)
12 A workshop in the morning with a North American (8)
13 Unusual jade stud, fixed as required (8)
16 A maker of horror films needing someone to overact? (6)
18 Hesitation when opening man's present (4)
19 Hang around small Scottish river (4)
21 Duck with large hooter (3)

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WHISKY BY TIME

*We recommend you seek independent financial advice prior to making any financial decision.